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LD2112142088 [Editorial Report]

Israel

The Likud Central Committee approved Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal for a broad-based government with the Labor Party after a "stormy" and "extremely tense" debate, Jerusalem radio reported.

The vote was 796 in favor; 642 against.

Moshe Arens, David Levi, and Binyamin Begin spoke in favor, while opponents included Ari'el Sharon and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

The agreement will be submitted to the Labor Party Central Committee for ratification 21 December, IDF radio noted.

In his address to the Likud delegates, broadcast by IDF radio, Shamir stressed the need for Israelis to stand united against the "serious danger" to Israel's existence posed by proposals for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Although the United States still opposes a Palestinian state "the pressures are growing," he said, and the recent "dangerous development" in U.S. policy "shocked" Israeli leaders.

Israel faces an international lineup that seeks to take away "large parts of the homeland to please the Arab countries."

Israeli politicians must therefore stand together and make "sacrifices" on issues that are important in ordinary times, Shamir asserted.

He added that a narrow-based government would have only lasted a short time due to the controversies and conflicts it engendered.

Shamir also announced in his speech that David Levi will be a vice prime minister in the new government, an appointment which had not been agreed in the Alignment-Likud talks.

Shamir subsequently told IDF radio that Levi's position as vice prime minister will be "secondary" to that of Alignment leader Shim'on Peres.

Jerusalem radio reported that the Likud and Alignment have reached a "secret" understanding that the Foreign Ministry will have exclusive control over foreign relations, but Peres will have access to the secret cables sent to the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister.

The two sides have also agreed that there can be no change in the sovereignty in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip without agreement by both sides, the radio said.

According to THE NATION, Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have also reached a separate understanding about plans to unilaterally establish "super autonomy" for populated Arab towns in the West Bank and Gaza during 1990.

Meanwhile, another Nabulus resident died of wounds sustained in the 16 December clash with IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio revealed.

PLO Affairs

At a press conference broadcast by Vienna radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described the new Israeli coalition as a "government of paralysis."

Contending that the Labor Party has backed away from promises made during the election campaign, 'Arafat said the new government's commitment to establishing settlements is a "bad and dangerous start."

'Arafat subsequently arrived in Yugoslavia at the invitation of the SFRY Presidency, Belgrade radio noted.

In another development, Kuwait's AL-QABAS published a statement by a PFLP member of the PLO Executive Committee criticizing the statements by 'Arafat which led to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Mustafa al-Zibri, alias Abu 'Ali Mustafa, contended that 'Arafat's remarks at a Geneva press conference were "not in line" with PNC resolutions and merely reflect 'Arafat's personal opinion.

Sudan

A senior Sudanese official told Amman's AL-RA'Y that the situation in Khartoum is "normal," disclosing that the declaration of a state of emergency was among the "precautionary measures" taken after security forces arrested a number of supporters of former President Ja'far Numayri.

There were no movements or disturbances in the army, but a number of officers were taken into custody, the official said.

A Khartoum press report cited by SUNA confirmed that security forces have arrested a number of persons including a former major general connected with Numayri's "defunct regime."

Another Khartoum paper published details of the "unsuccessful, bloody coup attempt" by Numayri supporters, MENA reported.

The plot involved two groups of conspirators, one of which planned to intercept the prime minister's car on 17 December.

The Sudanese authorities have taken strict security measures around important and strategic positions in the capital, MENA noted.

Egypt

Action Against Fundamentalists—Police arrested 85 "terrorists" belonging to the Al-Jihad organization in the 'Ayn Shams district of Cairo, AL-AKHBAR announced in a 21 December report cited by MENA.

Police are carrying out a sweep of terrorist hideouts throughout the country, the paper said.

Other newspapers cited by the agency reported that police shot dead a man wanted for the recent murder of a policeman in the 'Ayn Shams area.

Two of the fugitive's accomplices were also killed in the shootout.

A Radio Monte Carlo report noted that the three were Muslim fundamentalists.

Relations With Israel—The opposition paper AL-WAFD stated that Egyptian authorities have decided to "freeze" contacts with Israel as part of an effort to clear the atmosphere in Arab relations.

Lebanon: ICRC Pullout

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) decided to suspend its operations in Lebanon and repatriate its delegates because of "serious threats" against their lives, AFP reported.

Eleven ICRC delegates left Lebanon for Geneva 21 December, the agency noted.

Afghanistan

The second round of talks between Soviet and mujahidin representatives has been postponed for several days because mujahidin leaders experienced last-minute difficulties in finalizing the agenda, AFP reported 21 December.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, had earlier expressed "grave concern" about the dispatch of some 5,000 Soviet troops to Qandahar, asserting that such moves cast doubt on the credibility of the recent Soviet-mujahidin talks in Saudi Arabia, according to XINHUA.

In Kabul, Vice President Abdulhamid Mohtat told AFP that the PDPA "must be included" in any future coalition government.

Contending that the PDPA is the "main and prominent force" in Afghan society, he said it will play an "important, basic, and historic" role in a broad-based national coalition.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on PLO Relations With U.S.

AU2112101088 Vienna NEUE AZ in German 21 Dec 88 pp 4-5

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Georg Offmann-Ostenhof; in Vienna, on 20 December]

[Text] NEUE AZ: In the past days, events have followed in rapid succession. How do you explain the U.S. abrupt change of mind about holding a dialogue with the PLO?

'Arafat: That is very hard to say. We have observed the internal discussions in Washington—not only now. If you remember—following my withdrawal from Beirut, the United States had already accepted the formula of the "Palestinians' self-determination." However, Kissinger succeeded in canceling this formulation and changing it into "participation in connection with Jordan."

Prior to the invasion of Lebanon, we had an indirect, secret dialogue with the then U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. So this is not the first Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. As early as in 1975, talks were held in Morocco between a Palestinian delegation and a U.S. delegation led by Vernon Walters, then U.S. envoy to the United Nations Organization.

NEUE AZ: Yet the current development surely has come as a total surprise to you, after you were refused a visa to the United States.

'Arafat: Certainly. Everything seems to have happened very rapidly. Undoubtedly we have to realize that 154 votes (at the United Nations Organization) cannot be ignored. Not even by a superpower.

NEUE AZ: How will the U.S. dialogue with the PLO continue? Is a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and a U.S. President in sight?

'Arafat: This question is highly premature.

NEUE AZ: Has the first meeting between PLO representatives and the U.S. delegation in Tunis led to any substantial results?

'Arafat: Yes, it was a good beginning, a very good beginning—a good step in the right direction.

NEUE AZ: When Dr Habash of the People's Front announced at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers that he would vote against acceptance of UN Resolution 242 (implicit recognition of Israel), he added he hoped he was wrong and he would be happy if it turned out he was wrong. Do you think Habash is happy now?

'Arafat: Definitely. His strong, favorable position on the beginning of the dialogue in Tunis surely demonstrates this.

NEUE AZ: Do you see a danger that certain forces could try now to thwart the new dialogue between the United States and the PLO by demonstrative terrorist acts?

'Arafat: I expect Mosad (the Israeli intelligence service) to play this role.

NEUE AZ: Do you have clear information in this respect, or is this just a general expectation?

'Arafat: These are general expectations ..., no, more than just general expectations.

NEUE AZ: The changed U.S. position is bound to influence Israel's policy. Some ministers have already stated their preparedness to talk to the PLO ...

'Arafat: Only a very few. No, I am not optimistic. Look at the recent agreement between Likud and Labor. It says that eight new settlements will be established in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It is one of their principal mistakes to react to the Palestinian-U.S. talks by escalating the "policy of the iron fist" against the uprising in the occupied territories.

In addition, they are preparing for another operation in southern Lebanon.... Shamir made a statement recently, giving orders to the Israeli troops not to follow any moral principles. That is an order to kill.

NEUE AZ: Regarding your recent talks with representatives of U.S. Jews in Stockholm, do you see any change of attitude among Jewish communities toward the Palestinians?

'Arafat: Definitely, not only in the United States, but even in Israel. We have the peace movement. Peace forces are becoming stronger—not only among the Jews outside Israel, in the United States and Europe. The forces among the Jews, who reject Israel's inhuman practices against us, against our people, our children and women, are growing. We are in permanent contact with them.

NEUE AZ: But how can you be optimistic about a peace conference and the establishment of a Palestinian state, if the international community is in favor of it, but the Israeli Government totally rejects it?

'Arafat: Do not forget that the Israelis cannot act regardless of the international situation. They cannot stand alone against the whole world. If they decide to do so nevertheless—for how long could they hold out?

PNC Speaker: Talks With U.S. 'Very Important'

LD2112103588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 21 (KUNA)—Speaker of Palestine National Council 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih Wednesday was quoted here as (?affirming) that the U.S.-Palestine dialogue is very important particularly if it was followed by other steps to pressure into accepting the international community's resolutions. [sentence as received]

Al-Sa'ih told local daily AL-SIYASAH that United States has finally understood that its policy towards the Palestinian cause was wrong and the continuation of such kind of policy will expose the U.S. interests to danger.

He described the transfer of UN General Assembly's session on Palestine to Geneva from New York as a real victory for the Palestinian cause and a victory to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Regarding the role of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Al-Sa'ih said "We differ with (Hamas) on tactics but we meet with them strategically."

Al-Sa'ih described the rumors that Hamas was working individually and does not coordinate with other leadership as "not true."

The speaker added "Hamas' aim is (liberating) all Palestine," underlining that "we also aspire for that end but are currently working within the available possibilities."

He emphasized importance of national Palestinian unity order current circumstances. [sentence as received]

PNC speaker appreciated Egypt's role in the Palestinian cause, noting that Egypt under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak tried hard to convince the United States to take its latest decision towards the Palestinians.

Salah Khalaf on U.S.-PLO Talks, Israel

Warns of Israeli 'Operations'

JN1812115088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has called on the leaders of the GCC states, who will begin their ninth summit meetings in Manama tomorrow, Monday, to draw up an Arab plan to promote the efforts being exerted by the Palestinian people and the PLO to hold an urgent international conference for peace in the Middle East.

In a news conference he held here this morning, Abu Iyad stressed that the initiatives undertaken by the PLO to hold an international conference and find a political solution are the maximum that the PLO can offer. He pointed out that offering more will expose Palestinian unity to destruction. He also stressed that the PLO will not offer more initiatives in its dialogue with the United States.

Salah Khalaf warned that the Israeli enemy will, in the next stage, carry out a terrorist plan inside and outside the occupied Arab territories as a reply to the beginning of dialogue between the PLO and the United States and the recent Palestinian steps. He said Israel will try to implement its plans in the occupied Arab territories during the coming period by expanding its annihilation of some Palestinian forces in implementation of the policy of intimidation and panic. It will also carry out large-scale deportations in an attempt to end the uprising.

Salah Khalaf added that the enemy's plans outside the occupied territory are aimed at carrying out large-scale attacks on Lebanon and these may include confrontations with Syria. The enemy will also try to assassinate Palestinian leaders and carry out terrorist operations abroad and blame the Palestinians for them in an attempt to distract the world public opinion from the uprising.

Abu Iyad did not rule out the possibility of Israel using certain Palestinian or Lebanese elements to carry out its plans, indicating that the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, used to penetrate many of the movements which claim to be extremist.

Abu Iyad stressed the PLO's desire to continue its dialogue with the United States provided that "there are no plans to denude the PLO."

He hoped treatment of the Palestine question by U.S. President-elect George Bush's administration will be different from that of President Ronald Reagan.

He expressed his conviction that the task of the present U.S. Administration is to open dialogue and the next administration will promote dialogue and develop its stand toward the Palestinian people's rights.

Asked about the bases of a peaceful settlement of the Palestine quesiton, Salah Khalaf stressed it is the international peace conference which will lay down the bases of a just and comprehensive settlement of the region's conflict, indicating that this settlement will be lasting if it is just. He said the PLO hopes the conference will endorse the establishment of an independent Palestinan state that enjoys all the components of sovereignty and will fix the borders of this state.

On the timing of the declaration of the provisional Palestinian government, Abu Iyad clarified that holding the international conference will speed up the declaration of this government's formation. He said, however, that this declaration will be postponed if the atmosphere of the conference is not appropriate.

Abu Iyad expressed his optimism over establishing an independent Palestinian state and said: I believe this is becoming more realistic despite the basic obstacles, which are Israel as well as the United States, despite the start of dialogue with it.

Salah Khalaf spoke about the possibility of holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss the new changes in the Palestinian arena. He indicated that this depends on the success of the Arab foreign ministers' conference to be held in Tunis soon on the Lebanese crisis. He said the success of this conference will facilitate holding an Arab summit on Palestine. He expressed hope that the Lebanese crisis will be solved.

Abu Iyad affirmed that any Zionist terrorist operations during the coming stage will lead, in the final analysis, to world and international public opinion condemnation, especially since Israel is now isolated on the international level.

He said he believed the EEC countries will develop their stands toward the Palestine question, and that the EEC countries have, so far, voiced the basic minimum support for the Palestinians so that no division will occur within the EEC.

In answer to a question on the Zionist enemy's attempts to impose autonomy, Abu Iyad affirmed that the Palestinian people will not accept a solution which is less than a Palestinian state.

Abu Iyad considered that discussion of autonomy is an expression of the hysteria that the Israeli enemy is experiencing as a result of the uprising and international isolation.

In his news conference, Abu Iyad praised UAE stands supportive of the Palestinian people. He expressed his gratitude to His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan and the UAE people for what they are offering to the Palestinian people and their courageous uprising.

He expressed his hopes that the UAE president's initiative on Lebanon will achieve its goals in saving the country during the Arab foreign ministers' summit.

Abu Iyad praised Egypt's stand on the Palestine question and described the Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state as an excellent and great step. He said: We see this step as something natural coming from Arab Egypt whose effectiveness in the Arab and international arenas we have seen.

Abu Iyad denied reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had threatened to resign due to the United States' stand on the Palestinian political moves before the U.S. decision to start dialogue with the PLO.

On the PLO's stand on the opposition in the Palestinian arena, Abu Iyad said that the opposition, which the PLO recognizes, is the opposition inside the PLO. He indicated the presence of voices outside the PLO which continue their attacks whether the PLO moves or not.

'Armed Struggle Will Not Stop'

JN2012070288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Dec 88 pp 1, 21

[By Mu'in Ahmad Mahmud]

[Text] Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—member of the Fatah Central Committee, has praised the honorable stands taken by the President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan as manifested by his continuous support for the Palestine question and the blessed uprising.

Abu Iyad thanked the UAE—president, government, and people—for caring for the Palestinian people and adopting their cause. This came in the speech he made at the ceremony that was held last night at the National Theater of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Abu Dhabi on the 1st anniversary of the Palestinian people's uprising.

Abu Iyad affirmed that armed struggle will not stop except with the establishment of the Palestinian state.

He explained that one of the reasons that prompted the United States to hold a dialogue with the PLO was its feeling of isolation on the international level. He also affirmed that Palestine's acceptance in the United Nations is a great moral and political victory.

A public rally was also held at Al-'Ayn Municipal Theater 2 nights ago. During this rally, Abu Iyad delivered a speech in which he extended his thanks to the UAE—president, government, and people. The rally was attended by Shaykh Sa'id ibn Tahnun, member of the Executive Council and head of the municipal and planning department in Al-'Ayn, and Muhammad Salim al-Zahiri, head of the Special Department in Al-'Ayn. The rally was also attended by Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid—Abu al-Hawl—member of Fatah Central Committee; Khalid Malalk, head of the PLO office in Abu Dhabi; and a large number of government officials from Al-'Ayn.

More on 'Armed Struggle'

JN2012103588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Dec 88 p 7

[By Ahmad al-Khashin]

[Excerpts] In an address to a popular gathering at the Al-'Ayn municipality theater yesterday, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf reviewed the Palestinian revolution's march, the history of the Palestine question, and the stages when it was exposed to all forms of pressures and Arab compromises. He also spoke about armed struggle since the outbreak of the revolution and the Fatah Movement's march and its struggle throughout the history of the cause. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] referred to the Palestinian revolution's heroic stand in Lebanon in 1982 and during the siege of Beirut, which lasted 82 days, and to the massacres against the Palestinian people in Sabra and Shatila. He then spoke about the Palestinian uprising, saluting the stonethrowing heroes and praising the achievements of the uprising for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He said that the uprising has restored dignity to the Palestinian people. He said that the uprising has entered every house in the world, revived the Palestine question, and placed it at the top of current international issues. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Abu Iyad said there were some sides which attempt to sow differences among the ranks of the uprising and to say that the uprising has nothing to do with the PLO.

Abu Iyad added: Some sides exploited sensitive religious issues to sow differences. However, our struggler people have foiled all these attempts. On Fridays and Sundays, mosques and churches act as centers for the uprising. Some people said that the uprising alone can liberate all Palestine. Others said that it can liberate the territories occupied

in 1967, and so forth. The truth is that we should not ask from the uprising more than it can really give. The difficulties that our people in the occupied homeland have faced are more than enough. These difficulties have united them, created family solidarity and equality among them, and removed all class obstacles.

Abu Iyad then spoke about the declaration of the Palestinian state in Algiers by the PNC. He praised the historic Algiers PNC resolutions. He said that the declaration of the state has come following the blessed uprising, which embodied the Palestinian people's full sovereignty over their land.

Regarding the PNC's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Abu Iyad said this acceptance is based on the Palestinian people's historic and natural rights in their land and within the framework of reactivating the peace process and establishing the Palestinian state.

Abu Iyad spoke about the disengagement between Jordan and the West Bank. He praised the Jordanian step. He also pointed to the policy of international detente which is currently prevailing in the world, and developments in this policy regarding a solution to the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

Abu Iyad touched on the issue of direct dialogue with the United States. He stressed that no solution can be achieved except with the presence of the PLO because it is the basic element and the Palestinian people's sole representative of the Palestinian people. He said: We follow carefully-studied steps in this regard.

Speaking about the current stage, Abu Iyad said: The world is now entering the stage of international detente. In light of this, we have to think of solutions because any military action should have political objectives. Thus, the declaration of the Palestinian state has come to crown 40 years of struggle during which we waged the most violent battles. Now, we are entering our most violent political battles.

We were able to isolate the United States twice in 2 weeks. The first time when we succeeded in moving the UN General Assembly session to Geneva and the second when we won 104 votes in favor of using the name of Palestine instead of the PLO. This is a great victory for our just cause in the international arena.

Concluding his speech, Abu Iyad denounced terrorism in all its forms. He said: We are a people who know how to deal with their enemy on their land away from malice and depravity. We cannot liberate our land through air piracy or through kidnapping innocent people. He added: The Palestine question is one of the most complicated contemporary issues. We extend our hands to the whole world; one hand carrying an olive branch and another carrying arms to struggle for the establishment of our Palestinian state. Abu Iyad pointed out that the declaration of the establishment of a Palestinian state is addressed to all world states.

Interviewed by AL-BAYAN

JN2012155488 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Dec 88 p 6

["Text" of interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom du guerre Abu Iyad, "by UAE television from Dubayy" on 18 December—place not given]

[Text] [Question] The Palestinian question has recently witnessed acceleration and escalation in the [UN General Assembly] Geneva session, Yasir 'Arafat's speech, and then the recent change—that is, the U.S.-Palestinian meeting. We will begin from this point. How did this dialogue take place and what is its future?

[Khalaf] Our conflict with Israel lasted a very long time, particularly in regard to the dialogue with the United States. It is known that the Zionist lobby in the United States was a stumbling block to any U.S.-Palestinian meeting. We were expressing a sincere Palestinian desire to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement. Regrettably, however, the U.S. stand was not responsive to these resolutions as we had expected.

Then came the next step not to grant Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] an entry visa to deliver his speech before the United Nations. This decision has helped us greatly with world public opinion. It made the whole of world public opinion stand against preventing the Palestinian voice from speaking before the forum. For example, there were states that did not recognize the PLO but opposed the principle of preventing a people from speaking before the United nations, particularly after the PNC's Algiers resolutions.

Therefore, meetings were held at the United Nations, and the decision was made to move the UN session to Geneva for the first time in the history of the United Nations.

Here, reactions against the United States began to emerge. Some of our friends in Europe began to work to rectify the relationship in view of the fact that the Algiers resolutions formed a good ground. Therefore, contacts began to take a serious form.

The Americans then returned to us and said: Accept this; declare this; the Palestinian position is not clear. And 'Arafat's speech in Geneva included an explanation for some of these resolutions. This has removed many obstacles to the U.S.-Palestinian relationship. Then, the Swedish mediation succeeded in bringing the viewpoints on some points closer during Abu 'Ammar's press conference in Geneva. This has made the United States accept to announce a dialogue with the PLO.

What happened in Tunis was really a meeting that the U.S. ambassador asked for directly from the [PLO] Political Department. This was the first U.S. contact with the PLO Political Department. He requested the meeting at any

place chosen by the PLO. An agreement was reached that the meeting will take place first at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry and to look for another venue later.

The most important thing that took place in that meeting was expressed by the U.S. ambassador, who read to the brothers who met him the text of the U.S. decision to hold dialogue with the PLO and the brothers thanked him in return. Following that, they talked about the future of U.S.-Palestinian relationship and determined some issues, although the U.S. ambassador asked to leave the detailed discussion of these subjects until after President Bush takes charge of the U.S. Administration next January.

During this meeting, he only talked about some important things. This is the most important thing that has taken place during the first meeting. [Question] Do you, brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], believe that this stand will be a strategic U.S. stand, or are they just waiting for changes that might occur in the Palestinian stand or in future Palestinian opinions?

[Khalaf] I believe that the United States is not a small or marginal country of the world. For many years, it attempted to hold contacts on an even lower level than that of ambassador. I do not believe that this stand is mere coincidence. The United States tried, and it felt that there can be no solution to the Middle East region without the Palestinian element. It tried various solutions.

I would particularly like to mention with pride and honor the Palestinian uprising, which entered evey European and American home and formed public opinion. These people reject the occupation.

The uprising has turned into a large pressure factor on the U.S. Administration. A small example: Shultz tried to enter the region four or five times. He tried to find the solution among our Arab brothers or people on the inside. Rejection was unanimous. The PLO is the legitimate representative and any solution should be within the framework of the PLO. This indicates the unity of the people on the inside and the outside so that the people, and therefore the cause, will not be divided.

This U.S. stand, in my opinion, is the real background of the U.S. decision.

The truth is not that there was concession from here or there. This might have been one of the formalities. The truth in its deep sense, in my opinion, is that the gigantic uprising, our people's sacrifices, and their steadfastness over the past years is what has made the U.S. Administration hold a dialogue with the basic concerned side in any just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue (that is the PLO). However, many powers will attempt to hamper this, one of which is Israel. Others will also attempt to destroy these meetings in one way or another.

[Question] We know that the uprising was the detonator that let the winds and waves explode in the face of the occupation forces. How can we ensure that this uprising will continue as a means to pressure the enemy to withdraw and turn this uprising into a cohesive national unity on the inside? Some voices are talking about disputes on the inside, such as the dispute with the Islamic movement and some other sides.

[Khalaf] I will declare, until history records this, that this uprising, in its comprehensiveness and expansion, was more powerful than all the basic and marginal Palestinian organizations. By marginal I mean all those who try to talk about this uprising, the leadership, and the leadership of the revolution. I also mean we, the father and mother. The father and the mother always try to protect their child no matter what happens.

The uprising is bigger than all our organizations. I start with Fatah and end with the last organization in the Palestinian arena, which is the uprising of a whole nation. It is true that an organizational process was brought into the uprising so we can make it move in certain channels at some points; however, the core is this uprising, which the child alongside the woman and the man has started. This is all the work of my people. I always ask those who ask about the continuation of the uprising how it started so that we can discuss whether it will continue or not.

The truth is that the uprising started comprehensively without 100-percent planning. However, afterwards, the uprising became prominent in the world and represented the day-to-day life of the Palestinian people.

The U.S., Europe, and all others will constitute a time factor to expedite a solution for the sake of the uprising. The people in the occupied territories can no longer retreat. Mothers and fathers of martyrs and our women and children have had their faces stained with the blood of the Zionist oppression. How can these people retreat? Therefore, I stress that it is basic for this uprising to be continuous, comprehensive, and active. The uprising will not stop unless the occupation is removed.

The uprising is comprehensive. Organization as well as the accomulations of a people's revolution have been introduced to the uprising. Family revolution is one of the streams flowing in this uprising. Even the revolutions of our people in 1936, 1933, and 1919 constituted revolutionary accomulations in favor of the uprising.

Over generations, the uprising learned how to make the removal of the occupation its slogan. And here came the Palestinian political initiative, so that the courage of the children and women in the occupied territories would become equal to the leadership's courage in making political decisions regardless of personal views. Political decisions should match the level of the stone and of those who throw it. We, therefore, are not fearful regarding national unity. National unity was created by the uprising.

In 1987, before the uprising, we had a major operation in Algeria. That unity greatly helped our people wage the uprising, but the depth of this uprising in the history of the Palestinian people lies in all the successive revolutions. We, therefore, will not go back. National unity is a basic factor for the continuation of national action. Promoting and expanding this unity is represented by this mammoth uprising in the occupied territories. Many parties have disregarded some differences and conceded some points for the sake of this uprising. I know that what happened during the PNC session in Algiers is the best witness for this uprising.

[Question] Brother Abu Iyad, we know that the enemy is now in a state of extreme panic and that it began to step up its oppression. A few days ago, Nabulus offered more than seven martyrs in 1 day. How do you explain this panic and for how long will it continue?

[Khalaf] Like many people abroad, the Israelis thought that the uprising would continue 2 weeks, 1 month, or 2 months at most. They laid out programs to dissolve the uprising. These programs began with detention, with wounding thousands of youths who did not have enough room in hospitals, and with martyrs. They tried all methods: stones, plastic bullets, and gas bombs. They spared no method. But what was the result? Any mother with a martyred or detained son would only ululate for him. These are the pictures of the uprising generation.

To be fair, the generation of the uprising does not comprise only the children. It covers even the old women who break stones, put them in baskets, and deliver them like ammunition to the youths. This entire generation can only continue the uprising. In addition, what happened in Algiers provided these heroes with flexible and objective political and diplomatic resolutions through which to address the world and make it a powerful weapon by which these heroes can confront any Israeli oppression.

In fact, Israel was born from the womb of world public opinion and international legitimacy and resolutions. It is true that it disavowed them, but the fact that it was born from them is undeniable.

We say that the success of our generation is that we have invaded this world public opinion and international legitimacy. We want the occupation removed from our land through this international legitimacy.

Through this world public opinion, we want to protect the uprising. It is true that they do not care about world public opinion, but I can say they cannot attack world public opinion by committing large-scale massacres. Limited massacres have been committed since the beginning of the uprising. Yesterday, six citizens were martyred. In 1 day, our great martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and 20 others were martyred and many others wounded. Thousands of battles were fought in Rafah, Tripoli, Tulkarm, Janin, Hebron, and all villages in our homeland this year—the 1st year of the uprising.

Therefore, I believe that the hysteria that has gripped them came from the uprising's hand and from the political criticism, which the uprising is arousing and which Peres has described as political bombs thrown by 'Arafat.

[Question] How do you view future relations with Jordan following the establishment of the Palestinian state? We know that relations between the two peoples are old, immortal, and lasting.

[Answer] The Jordanian step to disengage ties constituted an important factor for and a background of the Algiers resolutions. Some people interpreted this step incorrectly. They said that the king wanted to embarrass the PLO and the uprising. In my opinion, the reverse is true. The decision was the wisest one the king has made because it was in favor of our cause as a nation. Why? Cards were often shuffled.

For example, the Jordanian option is not a Jordanian expression, but an Israeli and U.S. one. The decision to disengage ties has deleted this expression from the Israeli dictionary and placed the PLO and the Palestinian people before the Americans and the Israelis. Therefore, the step was wise and I believe it has eliminated many differences in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. We do not say this as propaganda.

We and the Jordanians form one nation because of intermarriage and historical, religious, fraternal, and social ties. The resolutions of our 16th PNC session in 1983 took all this into consideration and called for federal relations between us and Jordan. The Algiers political statement, which contains a Palestinian peace initiative, stresses that confederation is the future of the Palestinian-Jordanian relations and should be chosen freely by the two peoples so that this unity can be historic and lasting. If we exercise our sovereignty on our soil through our declared state, God willing, we will be advocates of Arab unity. We want all the Arabs to embrace this state because are an indivisible part of the Arab nation. [Question] Following this explanation, the question leads us to the nature of Palestinian-Arab relations. How do you want these relationships to be?

[Khalaf] The Palestinians—people and leadership—were very happy with the Arab solidarity that emerged in Geneva. The Arab group and foreign ministers have embraced the cause by standing by brother Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva. The real joy was due to the fact that the speeches were very sincere, and this has made us happy. We need such solidarity in the coming stage. We are now in the middle of a Palestinian political move that needs a parallel Arab move to support and back it so we can strike while the iron is hot, as the saying goes.

We are trying very hard to hurry the political steps to remove all obstacles that prevent the convening of a speedy international conference. In the international

conference, we will negotiate with an enemy. Therefore, we need the whole Arab nation on our side in this move. I believe the GCC countries. [sentence incomplete as published]

Today, we also told His Highness Shaykh Zayid [ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan] and some of our brothers here, including His Highness Shaykh Hamdan [not further identified], His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, and Rashid 'Abdallah that we want the GCC to initiate an Arab campaign to move the Palestinian subject more and more so we can really employ this international support in the interests of our people. Now is the time to do this. Israel is cornered and does not know how to move.

Now, the right wing has come under the leadership of Shamir. Let him come before the world with his black, rotten ideas, which only represent the worst fascist and Nazi ideas against peoples. They are practicing them now against our people and claim before the world that they are victims of Nazism. Unfortunately, victims of Nazism and fascism do not deal with the Palestinian people with the same practices that we see on television screens and which we hear about from those who come from inside the occupied territories.

[Question] What is the nature of your visit to the UAE?

[Khalaf] Actually, I came here with my brother, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid—Abu al-Hawl. He was on a tour in Oman; we met in Kuwait and then came here. We have met with his Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president; His Highness Dr Shaykh Sultan al-Qasimi; His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid; and His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid. All these meetings really aimed to put our brothers in the picture on the Palestinian moves in view of their role in the GCC and their direct role in these Arab and international developments, which are facing us.

The visit also came to contact our people. What we found here—whether from UAE or Palestinian and Arab people residing in these states—is something that encourages mutual trust, which always gives the leadership a push forward. [Question] One last question. Brother Abu Iyad, is there any intention to call for an Arab summit if circumstances permit pushing the issue further along the right course?

[Khalaf] We do not advocate the theory of announcing something that does not materialize. There is the issue of Lebanon, which requires treatment. This is a problem and we as Arab nationalists and committed people should find a solution to it. It is possible that the foreign ministers conference in Tunis on 3 January will be the beginning of a solution to this problem. This comforts us because all efforts will then be directed to the Palestinian political movement to protect the uprising.

Honestly speaking, the uprising had a conference in Algiers. It was a good conference, but we hope there will be a conference in the near future to discuss the Palestine question, if circumstances and consultations allow for that. The uprising is a basic part of this question. Within the framework of this political movement, we as Arabs should know how to draw up a plan without delay and without despair or frustration. Such a plan should be a continuous one so that if we fail in one point we can try to succeed in another.

This dialogue is required for the coming stage, and this is one of the reasons for calling for a summit. However, it is now too early for that. Let us allow the Palestinian movement to take its time and after some time, God willing, there will be an Arab summit conference crowning the victories scored and planning for future victories, the most important of which is that the State of Palestine should be on the land of Palestine, God willing, and we will all celebrate victory in Jerusalem.

We will invite all our Arab brothers to celebrate with us on the soil of our country in holy Jerusalem. Muslims will pray in mosques and Christians in churches. Joy will be general and we may pray together in churches and mosques.

[Question] How do you assess the recent Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

[Khalaf] There is no doubt that the birth of dialogue is a victory for our people after a long time during which they suffered from estrangement. The uprising was the basis of this dialogue and we hope it will develop in the interests of our cause and people.

[Question] Much concentration was noted on terrorism, the definition of terrorism, the meaning of terrorism, and renunciation of terrorism. What is your comment?

[Khalaf] We must understand the issue of terrorism. If it means operations abroad, we then reject it. We also reject operations that harm nations and our friends in the world. We have condemned these operations since 1974. We also condemned any external act such as hijacking planes, taking hostages, or anything related to such a terrorist act, which does not benefit our cause.

We agreed in 1974 that the PLO-affiliated organizations should not carry out any such act. We are responsible for that. As for the uprising, it is something else. It is a peaceful, popular, political act. An occupied people is confronting its occupiers with the peaceful means allowed by all world legislation, including the UN Charter, and all international norms, which allow our people to continue struggle peacefully in defense of its land. I do not think any side is linking terrorism and the uprising.

PLO's Al-Zibri on Terrorism, 'Arafat's Remarks

JN2012175888 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Dec 88 p 27

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] has made the following statement: Some Western and American sources have spoken of terrorism in association with the PLO. In this respect, I would like to stress the following:

1. The Zionist entity is the biggest terrorist project in the modern history. The Arab region in general and the Palestinian people in particular have suffered and continue to suffer from its terrorism.

2. Through all its administrations, the United States has supported state terrorism. It is responsible for the use of its warplanes in bombing and destroying the Palestinian camps. The use of fragmentation bombs is only one piece of evidence for its involvement in the crimes that have been perpetrated against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

3. We will continue to exercise the legitimate, UN-approved right of struggle against occupation in all forms, including armed struggle, until we accomplish our national program for return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on the soil of the homeland.

4. The uprising of our people inside the occupied homeland is a revolutionary action that will continue until the goal of freedom and independence is achieved.

5. What the PLO Executive Committee chairman said in his press conference in Geneva is not in line with the resolutions of the PNC in its latest session. It only expresses his own opinion.

Through what he said, the Executive Committee chairman whets the appetite of the U.S. Administration in seeking to blackmail the Palestinian revolution and the PLO. This administration still aims to abort the uprising in accordance with the miserable Shultz plan, which our people have rejected.

Provisional Government Elections in February

AU2012125688 Rome ANSA in English 1229 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 20—Elections for a provisional Palestinian government will be held in February, according to Khalid al-Hasan, one of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's close aides and the head of the PLO foreign relations office.

In an interview given to IL MESSAGGERO of Rome for the Tuesday editions, the PLO officials affirmed that, "the executives of the PLO have made a firm and clear commitment to the world, that of opposing all forms of terrorism and focussing attention on the peace process under the aegis of the United Nations".

Seeking to dismiss the prospect of blocking the PLO dialogue with the United States with a terrorist act traced to the PLO, Al-Hasan cited the recent PLO rejections of Abu Nidal, the Palestinian renegade held responsible for the terrorist attack at the Rome and Vienna airports December 27, 1985, in which nearly twenty people were killed.

"But Abu Nidal is not our most dangerous enemy, Israel is", said the PLO official. "We think that their attacks against our refugee camps in Lebanon will be stepped up and that they will carry out attacks in the Gaza Strip and West Bank territories to exasperate the Palestinian population as the Mosad (the Israeli secret service, ed.) is sending teams abroad for attempts on the lives of our officials".

Despite these predictions, he said he was optimistic about the future in light of the elections of a government-in-exile.

Abu Nidal Request To Rejoin PLO Rejected

LD2012134588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1144 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Rome, Dec 20 (KUNA)—The Palestine Liberation Organization has turned down a request by leader of Fatah Movement-the Revolutionary Council Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] to rejoin the PLO, an Italian newspaper said Tuesday.

Il MESSAGGERO today quoted PLO's mainstream Fatah Movement Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan as saying that Abu Nidal had officially requested to join the PLO endorsing the PLO leadership's statement in Geneva.

Al-Hasan told the paper that during a recent visit to Libya by a PLO delegation to acquaint the Libyan leadership with the Palestinian political drive "we were told that Abu Nidal wants to come back to the organization and that he admitted his mistakes and pledged not to obstruct 'Arafat's policy."

He said "the PLO has rejected restoration of Abu Nidal to its ranks. We consulted the British who advised us to accept Abu Nidal's offer to keep him under direct control but the Americans rejected it on grounds that they don't trust him."

Al-Hasan said it was out of their control to monitor extremist Palestinian factions who were manipulated by foreign powers.

Al-Hasan charged that the Israeli intelligence, Mosad had sent death squads to assassinate PLO officials.

He told the paper that plans of the Israeli plot were leaked to the PLO by Western and American sources and not directly from the U.S. Government.

Egypt

Contacts, Visits With Israel 'Suspended'

JN2012164988 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Dec 88 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Egypt recently decided to freeze all contacts with Israel and pave the way for the current efforts to clear the atmosphere in Arab relations. Secret and public visits exchanged by officials in Cairo and Tel Aviv were also suspended.

AL-WAFD has also learned that Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, has sent a cable to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in which he described Egypt's support for the Palestine question and its recognition of the independent Palestinian state as an Egyptian affair in the first place.

In his message, Ben-Aharon denied statements attributed to him that Israel has threatened not to implement the ruling of the international arbitration panel on Tabah in reply to Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state. Ben-Aharon's statements had increased tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations, which have descended to their lowest level since the normalization of relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv has recently refused to grant some Israeli extremists, who are hostile to peace, entry visas to Egypt. Political circles also affirmed that immediately after the formation of a new Israeli government, Egypt will try to pressure Israel through Washington to persuade it to retreat from its intransigent position on the PLO.

3 Muslim Fundamentalists Killed by Police

JN2012183188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Three members of Muslim fundamentalist groups were killed by Egyptian police in Cairo's Shubra suburb last night. The police were searching for the three because one of them was accused of assassinating a police officer in 'Ayn Shams about 2 weeks ago. The other two were accomplices in the same crime, according to MENA.

It is noteworthy that the Egyptian police this time opened fire on the perpetrators instead of trying to arrest them. Some interpreted this as a signal of a new tactic in confronting religious fundamentalists accused of perpetrating crimes. Others interpreted it as a vengeful police reply to the killing of a colleague.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on Arrest of 85 'Terrorists'

NC2112080388 Cairo MENA in English 0747 GMT 21 Dec 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—"AL-AKHBAR" leads its front-page news with a report that the police apprehended 85 terrorists belonging to the fundamentalist Al-Jihad Organization in 'Ayn Shams District of Cairo.

The newspaper reported that the police are carrying out a complete dragnet of terrorist hideouts in Egypt.

"AL-AHRAM" reported that the prosecution is investigating the killing of the officer's murderer and two cohorts. The newspaper said the police proceeded to their hideout to apprehend them when they opened fire on the police force obliging to shoot back.

"AL-JUMHURIYAH" published on its front page a report on how the accused police officer's murderer was killed with his two cohorts.

Spanish Foreign Minister Continues State Visit

Views EC's Mideast Efforts

NC2012152688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today praised the role played by Spain in furthering the peace efforts. Speaking at a news conference which he held today with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We appreciate the stands of Spain and its support to all our issues. We also appreciate its role within the EC, which it will head beginning in January.

For his part, the Spanish foreign minister praised the Egyptian role in all the stages of the Middle East peace process, saying that Egypt has created a climate of moderation which is giving impetus to the peace efforts.

Fernandez-Ordonez said that European countries have issued several statements concerning the Middle East issue which have concurred completely with the Egyptian points of views.

The Spanish foreign minister said that European countries voted in UN meetings in Geneva in favor of holding the international peace conference. Egypt, he noted, played a major role in supporting this resolution. He added that the EC decided yesterday that the foreign ministers of Spain, Greece, and France will undertake a dialogue with the parties of the Mideast conflict. He noted that this is the first time in which European diplomacy moves away from statements to tangible efforts.

The Spanish foreign minister said that the EC will coordinate with the United States and that this coordination will be useful in moving toward the goal of establishing peace in the region. He mentioned that actual efforts will be exerted at the beginning of the new year and following the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Received by Mubarak

NC2112081688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Carlos Fernandez, Spanish ambassador to Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Reviews Talks With Mubarak

NC2112104488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez has disclosed that he delivered a message from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who enjoys an intimate friendship with President Mubarak, to the Egyptian president during their meeting today.

The Spanish minister praised President Mubarak's policy and described him as a close friend of Spain. Fernandez-Ordonez added that he had expressed to his excellency Spain's friendly feelings toward Egypt and the Egyptian people.

The Spanish foreign minister revealed that this talks with President Mubarak had centered on the international situation, bilateral relations, and Spain's European role in light of its assumption of the EC chairmanship in January 1989.

The Spanish foreign minister described the approximately 1-hour meeting as useful and said it gave him the opportunity to hear President Mubarak's views on the expected international developments in light of the new aspects of the Middle East crisis.

He said that the EC has decided to form a tripartite committee consisting of the French, Greek, and Spanish foreign ministers and under Spain's chairmanship, to carry out contacts with the parties to the Middle East conflict. The Spanish foreign minister pointed out that this is the first time in the past few years that the Community has decided to undertake effective diplomatic moves and not merely to issue statements.

He noted that the first mission the EC will undertake under Spanish chairmanship is these contacts. The Spanish foreign minister declared that we are committed to action and we will begin by contacting all the parties concerend.

Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez asserted that the triparatite committee will begin its contacts at athe earliest possible date. Regarding contacts with the PLO, he said: This will certainly take place, but we also hope to have the opportunity to contact Israel as it is an important party to the conflict. He remarked that the aim of the committee is to promote the convening of an interantional peace conference.

For his part Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has welcomed the formation of this committee, saying that it is a good beginning for Spain's chairmanship of the EC. He noted that the cooperation on this issue between Spain, France, and Greece and the setting up of the tripartite committee, gained the approval of the entire EC. He noted that the EC had adopted a clear stand during the voting in Geneva on the issue of holding an international conference, which had gained 138 votes in favor.

Egypt's foreign minister added that the EC had voted in favor of such conference, for the first time in its history, and described it as a very positive sign with regard to its convening.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he believes the EC will play an important role in the coming stage.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meets With Leaders

Received by Mubarak

NC2012090988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie and the accompanying delegation at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Eng 'Isam Radi, works and water resources minister and head of the team escorting the Ethiopian guest.

Views Talks With Mubarak

NC2012114088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, in which the latter renewed his invitation to President Mubarak to visit Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie disclosed this following his meeting with President Mubarak today. He revealed that his discussion with his excellency focused on developments toward peace in the region and in the Horn of Africa, the result of the dialogue with the

brothers in Sudan to establish peace in the region, the present domestic problems facing Ethiopia, and the possibility of establishing peace and restoring security, peace, and stability to the area. He added that the discussions also dealt with the means of improving relations with the Arab countries. He said that President Mengistu's message referred to all these points.

Regarding economic cooperation, the Ethiopian prime minister said that the two countries had formed a joined committee, which will meet in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 February. He pointed out that there is wide scope for cooperation between the two countries.

He also disclosed his talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi were aimed at strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation. The Ethiopian prime minister noted that the two countries have a true desire to cooperate, stressing that both sides have agreed to continue their efforts in that direction.

Regarding the issue of the Nile River waters, Fikre-Selassie said that he and President Mubarak did not hold an in-depth discussion of this matter because it falls within the purview of the mission of the delegation that has arrived in Egypt for a dialogue on this issue. He added that then everybody will benefit from the Nile waters if peace is established in Ethiopia. He added that the countries concurred will continue to fully benefit from the Nile waters.

Regarding Ethiopian-Sudanese relations, particularly the problem of southern Sudan, the Ethiopian prime minister said that a dialogue was held with the Sudanese on this issue and that Ethiopia has exerted efforts and pressure on the Garang Movement to contact the Sudanese under the pretext of Sudan's territorial integrity. He referred to the constitutional conference that will be held in Sudan soon and expressed his belief that the results will be positive if the Sudanese parties make positive decisions.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC2112063088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie left Cairo early this morning after a 3-day visit, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

The Ethiopian prime minister also had met with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, and Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi.

Fikre-Selassie was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and 'Isam Radi, minister of works and water resources.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes Arab Ties With U.S.

LD2112093788 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY —The leader of the revolution has sent a telegram to Arab presidents and kings. It reads:—Reagan, head of the U.S. Administration, in his farewell party addressed to the American nation, has said that without U.S. unlimited support to Israel, the PLO would not have accepted to recognize it and conduct a dialogue with the U.S. according to the conditions it [word indistinct].

There is nothing unusual in its logic or its presidents. They announce without refraining or embarrassment to their Arab friends that they support the enemy stressing their continuation in strengthening and backing it in all its policies regardless of the damage inflicted by this policy on the Arabs even if this represents liquidating the presence of the Arabs.

All of this comes within the context of the bias towards the enemy and animosity against the Arab nation. Still, what causes surprise and astonishment is the stance assumed by the Arabs vis-a-vis their cause and the continuation of Arab president and kings of their relations with the U.S. notwithstanding all the stances announced by it and all what it has given to the enemy in terms of the limitless support.

The situation under the prevailing circumstances has bypassed logic and reasoning mind. Day by day this reconfirms that the Arabs are incompetent to understand the dangers of the continuation of their relations with the U.S. with all the direct threat this ensues [as received] to their security and presence.

The sole explanation for this stand is that concept of differentiation between friend and foe is no longer in existence amongst us as Arabs.

As long as the U.S. is an ally to the enemy and a friend of the Arabs what is the damage to those friends of the U.S. from among the Arabs if the enemy becomes in the rank of a friend? It paves the way to recognize it today and bridges for conduct a dealing with it tomorrow are established thereby elimination the contradiction in the concept of the friends of the U.S. between the presence of the enemy and our presence as long as we are incompetent to understand the nature of the conflict with it... and as long as this conflict has been confined in a border concept whose dimensions are eliminated through its settlement. [sentence as received]

There is no importance in connection with this concept to have the presence of the Arabs and the future of their offsprings depend on the will of the U.S. and the enemy.

It is the pressures of the U.S. on the PLO that have forced it to recognize the Zionist entity and accept co-existing with it despite the radical contradiction this reflects in understanding the nature of the conflict with the enemy, apart from its dimensions. The U.S. will continue in exercising pressures on the Arabs to achieve the same result.

History will not have mercy on Arab presidents and kings while they sell out the land and integrity, digging the graves of our oncoming generations with their hands and pawing their future to the will of their enemy. The day will come when the will of history expressing the presence of this nation takes vengeance against all both the policies of sell-out of the Arab right and the capitulation to the U.S.

Economic Agreement Signed With Somalia

LD2012120488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1125 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli 20 Dec (JANA)—An agreement for social and economic cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the fraternal republic of Somalia was signed in Tripoli this morning. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Somalia.

The agreement aims at developing and promoting the joint cooperation in economic, trade, technical, and social fields. The agreement also stipulates the setting up of a joint committee to coordinate cooperation between the two countries. It stipulates, furthermore, the need for consolidating cultural relations, particularly in the spheres of education, sciences, arts, and youth activities.

The signing of the agreement was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and a number of officials accompanying President Mohamed Siad Barre, President of Fraternal Somali Republic, as well as the Somali ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and a number of experts from both countries.

Sudanese Delegation Leaves 19 Dec

LD2012103888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—Dr Ali al-Din, member of Fraternal Sudan's State Council, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at midday today. In the forefront of those who saw him off was Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Sudan

MENA Reports Coup Attempt; Suspects Arrested

NC2012130288 Cairo MENA in English 1250 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (MENA)—An attempted coup has been foiled on Sunday night in Sudan. Elements who staged the coup have been arrested and the situation controlled, according to press reports here today. AL-SUDAN newspaper said the coup has been staged by racist elements.

On the other hand, an official Sudanese ministerial source said today that the Sudanese capital has been put under a state of security and defence emergency. The source said that according to this announcement the authorities concerned have the right to arrest, sequestrate and place under house arrest besides other sanctions according to the regulating laws.

State of Emergency Declared Due to 'Incidents'

NC2012152088 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (AFP)—A state of emergency is being activated in the Sudanese capital for "security and defence reasons", Justice Minister Hasan al-Turabi told the press here Tuesday.

He said the decision was taken late Monday by the government's state of emergency committee, of which he is chairman.

There has been a general state of emergency in Sudan since July last year, but it has never been put into force in the capital.

Mr. al-Turabi said the emergency was being applied here because of recent "incidents" which he did not specify.

He denied the decision was linked to a demonstration called for Wednesday by the Democratic Unionist Party in support of a peace agreement reached by DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Mr. al-Turabi leads the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, which is a member of the three-party government coalition like the DUP but it opposes the peace agreement. On November 22 a policeman was killed and dozens of people injured when Front supporters clashed with security forces during a demonstration against the agreement with the rebels.

Security forces had now been ordered to take "adequate measures to maintain stability and security", Mr. al-Turabi said.

Official Says Situation 'Normal'

JN2112090688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Dec 88 pp 1, 20

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum/Cairo—Answering a question posed by AL-RA'Y, a senior Sudanese official has said that reports transmitted by world news agencies and broadcast by radio stations were exaggerated.

In a telephone contact AL-RA'Y held with him in his office in Khartoum, this senior official added that what really happened was that the defense minister submitted a report to the National Security Council, which was in session the day before yesterday, and that the report included a reference saying that some loyalists of former President Ja'far Numayri have suspect activities. He said: The defense minister requested taking precautionary measures and putting them in custody. This what actually happened. There were no movements or disturbances in the Army. This was an ordinary administrative action.

Regarding the National Security Council, it has an ordinary meeting once a week. This council includes the prime minister, the interior minister, the foreign minister, the finance minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the police commander, and the chief of the national security apparatus. As a result of this security and administrative action and placing some officers in custody, a state of security emergency was declared in the city of Khartoum.

This senior official told AL-RA'Y that the situation in Khartoum and the other Sudanese cities is normal. He stressed that the Numayri group's movement in the Army has come as a reply to the peace agreement with the Garang group. He said that this agreement has received overwhelming popular support. He said that a mammoth demonstration organized by the parties and trade unions will be staged in Khartoum tomorrow.

He said that this demonstration represents more than 80 percent of the political institutions in Sudan which call on the government to quickly sign the peace agreement and on the parliament to endorse this agreement. In order to avoid any confrontation or exploitation of this mammoth demonstration, a state of security emergency was declared to allow it to be a popular expression and referendum on the signing of the peace agreement and to foil the attempts of infiltrators among the ranks of the Armed Forces and people.

This official stressed that the situation in Sudan is very normal and that the role of democracy in Sudan is being reinforced day after day.

In Cairo, Egypt received reports on the possibility of a coup attempt in Khartoum with strong caution and annoyance. Leaders in charge of various military and political positions have made firm decisions to follow up the situation and prepare to confront any possibility. Two operation rooms were also set up at the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs to follow up the situation by and by.

Informed sources in Cairo told AL-RA'Y that the situation in Khartoum is reassuring and that the Sudanese Government will issue an official statement at a later time to explain the cause of tension and of the Sudanese forces' deployment in the streets of Khartoum yesterday.

An official Egyptian source stressed to AL-RA'Y that Egypt is concerned about and interested in security and stability in fraternal Sudan and that Egypt will not hesitate to extend any aid to the fraternal Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

'Strict Security Measures' Adopted in Khartoum

NC2112111088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (MENA)—At dawn today the Sudanese authorities and Army adopted strict security measures around important and strategic sites, including the cabinet premises, the Presidential Palace, the Constituent Assembly, bridges, and the capital's major entry and exit roads. These measures come in the wake of the declaration of a state of emergency in Khartoum yesterday.

The Sudanese AL-KHARTOUM newspaper has reported that five individuals have been placed under protective custody in accordance with the declared state of emergency following reports that they had carried out activities hostile to the democratic system. The paper added that the Supreme Security Committee had ordered their arrests. AL-KHARTOUM disclosed that the committee began to evaluate yesterday the names of some other individuals who, according to reports, had been conducting some suspicious activities.

Meanwhile, the Popular Committee for Supporting the Peace Initiative decided, at a meeting it held last night, to postpone a demonstration that had been planned for today. That demonstration was to have been an expression of support for the peace process. The Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] called for the postponment of the demonstration so as to avoid a confrontation that would have had a negative effect on the democratic system.

In a statement to newspapers, DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani said that the decision to postpone the demonstration favors the initiative and the peace cause.

The leaders of the Sudanese Trade Union Federation, the Sudanese Farmers Federation, the Employees Federation, and the teachers' unions issued a statement last night announcing their intention not to participate in the demonstration out of their desire not to endanger the country's democratic system.

Security Forces Arrest Former General, Others

EA2112111788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum Dec 21 (SUNA)—Security forces have arrested a number of persons among them a former major general in the Armed forces under the state of emergency law declared here last Monday, the daily newspaper AL-AYYAM today reported. The paper said that the police began to investigate with former officers in the defunct regime security organ.

On the other hand, the daily newspaper AL-SIYASAH reported that the Lt-Col Hassan Mohamed Ahmed who was arrested recently due to his participation in a coup attempt said that his group includes civil and military persons belonging to the defunct regime of May. He said that the said group has been divided into two groups the first will bombed the premier car. [sentence as received]

The second group composed of 20 to 22 persons, top of them a former general in the armed forces, AL-SIYASAH reported. It added that all security measures have been taken to protect the political and executive leaders.

'Deteriorating Security Situation' in Darfur

NC2012131088 Cairo MENA in English 1252 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (MENA)—The Constituent Assembly Committee on Defence and National Security has prepared a report on measures to be taken to confront the deteriorating security situation in Darfur as well as to prevent foreign intervention and looting.

The report which will be forwarded to the assembly for endorsement proposes the closure of borders with Libya and Chad and the provision of means of transportation required by the armed forces and police authorities operating inside Darfur, so as to protect the province and adjacent areas from attacks by foreign groups.

Darfur's deputy at the Al-Ummah Party Hassan al-Zayn told AL AYYAM newspaper published here today that Chadian groups armed with machineguns last week attacked the village of Sifr al-Hadad [placename as received], northeast of the town of Al-Jinian [placename as received] in Darfur. The attackers burned and destroyed all the houses of the village. Five villagers were reported dead as a result of the attack.

Sudanese Government forces repulsed the attackers, who were wearing Chadian Army uniforms, while attacking a nearby area, killing five and taking one captive, the Sudanese officials said.

Leaders of Chadian Groups Arrested for Espionage

NC2112112088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (MENA)—Sudanese security forces in Nyala in Darfur Province have arrested 10 leaders of Chadian organizations existing in the city and the province. AL-SUDAN newspaper reports today that these individuals were arrested because it was revealed that they had been acting as intelligence apparatus for foreign countries.

The paper added that the arrests were carried out in accordance with the application of the emergency law in Darfur. The detained individuals are currently being interrogated.

Al-Banna Meets Ethiopia's Fikre-Selassie

EA2012101188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Idris al-Banna, member of the State Council, has stressed that Sudan is making great contributions in the diplomatic sphere toward solving Ethiopia's problems. In a meeting with Ethiopian Premier Fikre-Selassie, Al-Banna praised the measures taken by the Sudanese and Ethiopian sides to end their border problems.

After the meeting, Comrade Fikre-Selassie stressed the special relationship between the two countries. He said his meetings with government and party officials confirmed the steadfastness of this relationship. Idris al-Banna extended an invitation to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to visit Sudan next January to attend the country's independence celebrations.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Further on GCC Ministerial Conference

Ministers End 'Closed' Meeting

JN2012104788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0906 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC foreign ministers concluded a closed meeting this morning. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current session of the ministerial council. The meeting was concluded after holding a final review of topics on the agenda of the ninth summit.

It has been learned that the ministers emerged with a clear vision on many issues discussed during the meeting.

Second Session Adjourns

JN2012121888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Leaders of the GCC states adjourned their second session here at noon today.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the GCC ministerial council, said that he briefed their majesties and highnesses—the leaders of the GCC states—on a report of what has been accomplished since the last summit.

Shyakh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah told WAKH that their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC states, discussed the political situation in the region. He said that the leaders were informed of a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the summit expressing thanks and appreciation for the GCC states for their constant stands on the Palestine question.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, informed the GCC leaders of the phone call received by his highness yesterday from King Husayn of Jordan in which he wished the summit success in issuing resolutions which serve joint Arab action.

GCC Chairman Makes Statement

JN2012164188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current GCC Ministerial Council session, made a press statement in Manama this evening in the presence of GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah.

In his statement, the Bahraini minister reviewed the deliberations of GCC leaders during today's session, which was held in Manama, and the progress of the work of the summit. He said that the summiteers have begun to study the regional situation in light of current regional and international givens.

The minister indicated that constructive and positive resolutions, with results reflecting positively on the region's people, will emerge from this summit.

The Bahraini foreign minister announced that the GCC oil ministers held two meetings and reached a unified draft resolution on GCC oil policy. He added that the Ministerial Council will study this draft resolution tonight and submit it to the summiteers. The minister affirmed that the unified draft resolution reached by the GCC oil ministers is a first-time event.

The Bahraini minister pointed out that the GCC secretary general submitted to the GCC leaders a detailed report on what has been accomplished in the past year, as he briefed their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders in yesterday's session on developments in the GCC apparata and bodies.

The Bahraini foreign minister described as comprehensive the report submitted to the GCC leaders by Bisharah in the first working session. He added that he, as chairman of the ninth GCC Ministerial Council session, submitted to the GCC leaders in the morning session a report containing an elaborate review of the political situation in the region, the Arab arena, and on the international level.

Shaykh Muhammad indicated that the GCC foreign ministers asked him to prepare the report on behalf of all of them and said that the report was discussed in a fraternal atmosphere and serious manner.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that their majesties and highnesses discussed the development of the situation in the region, especially after the [Iraq-Iran] ceasefire and the launching of the peace process. He added that they also discussed efforts to help the mission of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar succeed and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for the termination of the Iraq-Iran war.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak also said that the GCC leaders discussed the current situation in the Arab region, especially the Palestinian uprising and the Algiers PNC resolutions. He indicated that the GCC leaders discussed these issues deeply to draw up a joint perspective on them.

The minister asserted that the GCC will be a strong support for the Palestinian state, which was proclaimed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah added that the situation in Lebanon preoccupied much of the interest and attention of their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders during their deliberations. He affirmed that the GCC will work to preserve an independent, unified Lebanon and maintain legitimacy on its territory.

The minister pointed out that the GCC secretary general read out to their majesties and highnesses during their meeting today the message from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat containing his welcome of the ninth GCC summit and his best wishes of success for the summit to serve joint Arab action.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak affirmed that the resolutions that will come out of the ninth GCC summit will be constructive and in the interests of all parties in the region.

The minister emphasized that the leaders' deliberations today were fraternal and characterized by a positive atmosphere. He pointed out that the leaders will continue to discuss topics on the summit's agenda tomorrow.

In reply to a question on relations with Iran, the Bahraini foreign minister said that contacts with Iran are continuing and the results of these contacts are on the agenda of the ninth GCC summit. He added that their majesties and highnesses are acquainted with these results.

On the political topics and issues discussed by the leaders and on whether executive steps will be taken, the minister said that the objective behind our consideration of events in the past year is to draw up a common perspective for the coming year and to develop a unified stand and common vision in this regard.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said that the GCC leaders' meeting today lasted from 1130 to 1400.

The minister pointed out that a press conference will be held at the conclusion of the ninth GCC summit to review the resolutions issued and the results reached.

GCC Oil Committee Meets

JN2012173488 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, Dec 20 (GNA)—The GCC Ministerial Committee for Oil Cooperation met here this morning, the second, since last night, under the chairmanship of Bahraini Development and Industry Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi.

Al-Shirawi told the GNA after the meeting that the meeting was "completion" to its meeting held yesterday. He added that the committee discussed three recommendations to be submitted to the Ministerial Council dealing with the oil situation in general mainly the recommendation regarding the full adherence to the recent OPEC agreement in Vienna concerning the production quota and the pricing structure agreed upon.

Ministers Postpone Meeting

JN2012210588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1935 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—WAKH has learned that the GCC states' foreign ministers have decided to postpone the meeting they were scheduled to hold tonight until 0900 tomorrow, Wednesday.

Sources close to the GCC ministerial council said the ministers will concentrate on economic and security issues tomorrow within the framework of the ninth GCC summit agenda. They will also study the decision the GCC oil ministers reached during the two meetings they held yesterday and today on the GCC states' oil policy prior to submitting it to the GCC leaders in their next session.

Earlier today, the foreign ministers discussed political issues, particularly those related to current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, including the termination of the Iraq-Iran war and the march of peace between Iraq and Iran, in addition to other issues, particularly the valiant Palestinian uprising, the Middle East issue, the situation in Lebanon, and international issues of concern to the GCC states.

Third Working Session Begins

JN2112110688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—Their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries began their third working session in Manama at noon today under the amir of the State of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, chairman of the ninth session of the GCC Supreme Council.

Conference sources have said that the leaders will examine political and oil issues in light of the papers submitted by the Ministerial Council, which concluded its third working session earlier today, in order to adopt the necessary decisions thereon.

These sources affirmed that there is a feeling of general satisfaction among the leaders regarding the level of cooperation attained among the member states on the steps that have been reached to achieve political and economic coordination, which would further strengthen the council.

These sources said that the ninth summit's final statement will contain important steps fulfilling the citizens' aspirations to remove the barriers between member states and to strengthen ties among the peoples of the region.

Third Session Concludes

JN2112100488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC Ministerial Council ended its third working session today after a 2 and 1/4-hour meeting. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah told WAKH that during the session, some ideas pertaining to the GCC's political action were discussed. He added that these ideas are derived from the trends of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries demonstrated during yesterday's session. He explained that the GCC Ministerial Council discussed these trends and drafted a working paper to be submitted to the GCC countries' leaders during their third working session today.

Asked about the topics discussed by the GCC Ministerial Council today, Bisharah said that the council ended the political discussions as well as discussion of the oil policy and approved the working paper submitted by the GCC countries' oil ministers. He also pointed out that the GCC Ministerial Council will hold a fourth session this afternoon to discuss economic issues. He affirmed that a spirit of love and brotherhood prevailed in the meeting in order to achieve political coordination among the GCC countries.

Bisharah also announced that there are economic steps toward a Gulf common market, pointing out that there is a plan to expand the market within the framework of implementing the joint economic agreement among the GCC countries.

Bisharah also said that the GCC Ministerial Council will try to end its discussions on all the working papers listed on the agenda this afternoon to be submitted to the GCC countries' leaders, who will hold their final session tomorrow, Thursday. He added that the leaders will hold a session this morning and another this evening.

Sources Rule Out Expansion

JN2012130888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1207 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Informed Gulf sources have ruled out the possibility of discussing the expansion of the GCC to turn it into an organization for regional economic cooperation.

These sources were commenting on an editorial published in an Iranian newspaper calling for a regional economic organization to include Iran.

The newspaper AL-KHALIJ, issued in Al-Shariqah, today cites the sources as saying that it is still premature to raise such an issue because the main interest of the GCC states is now concentrated on boosting efforts to make the Iraq-Iran negotiations succeed and reach a peace agreement.

The sources added that the "GCC as an organization whose peculiarity stems from social and economic similarity and homogeneous political systems prefers that cooperation with other states does not take the form of an organization."

The sources added that the GCC states are ready to cooperate with other states stemming from their policy which rejects axes and any form of alliances.

On cooperation with Iran, the sources said that the GCC states believe that halting the Iraq-Iran war and increasing hopes of reaching a peaceful agreement provide an appropriate atmosphere for establishing cooperation between the two sides. The sources added that the GCC states believe that the establishment of such cooperation is essential for guaranteeing stability and security in the region.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Meets, Examines Budget

LD1512213288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of brother chairmen of executive bureaus of local People's Councils in governorates and a number of the cadres concerned in ministries and relevant governmental organs.

The Council of Ministers expressed deep regret at the human and material losses to which the Soviet Republic of Armenia were exposed as a result of the recent earthquake disaster. It expressed heartfelt condolences to the friendly Soviet people and its confidence in the ability of the Soviet people to overcome the effects of this disaster. The Council appealed to all state organs and their institutions and cooperatives, professional and creative organizations, and to all citizens to collect donations as an expression of humanitarian feelings towards those who suffered damage from this disaster.

The Council also examined a number of issues and reports on its agenda, among them a draft plan of the fourth year, 1989, of the third 5-year plan for economic and social development for the years 1986-90. The draft included unified and general budgets of the state, the unified estimated budget of public establishments, expectations for the balance of payments and revenues, and utilization of foreign currency for 1989. The Council also examined the import, export, and re-export program and the supply plan for 1989.

During a long discussion of the issues on its agenda, the Council attached special importance to stability in the supply and preservation of foodstuffs and essential commodities for the life of the citizens, as well as increased industrial and agricultural production and improvement in quality. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Discusses GCC Summit, Arab Issues

JN2112085288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec [date as received] (WAKH)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has stressed the eagerness of the GCC countries' leaders to maintain normal relations with all countries, especially the neighboring countries. In a statement to be published by the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on Wednesday, he says that the best proof of this are the joint statements issued by the GCC summit conferences which express the real views on the overall issues, foremost of which are those pertaining to the Arabian Gulf's security and stability based on mutual respect and appreciation.

King Fahd urges the concerned countries to take these matters into consideration for the sake of good neighborliness, which is recommended by our true Islamic religion. He also mentions that the Gulf region has suffered from the Iraq-Iran war over the past years and says that we should learn lessons from that war between the two Muslim neighbors in order to entrench the concept of peace in this region and the world at large. He urges all friendly and wealthy countries to participate in reconstructing what was destroyed by the war, adding that reconstruction needs coordinated international efforts in light of the extensive damage caused by the war.

Regarding GCC efforts to reach a concept of a comprehensive Arab security shared by all the Arab countries and based on the intrinsic Arab powers, the custodian of the two holy mosques affirms that an Arab security shared by all the Arab countries is a basic requirement, that what is required now is an Arab consensus to implement and turn what has been agreed on into practice, and that the ensuing phases will complete the desired integration. In this regard, he refers to the Arab League's role and says that it drew up formulas for cooperation in many important areas, including the defense area.

Regarding the establishment of an advanced Arab military industry to limit the Arab world's dependence on foreign countries, the custodian of the two holy mosques says that there are many views and that what is important in the first place is to concentrate efforts on ways to achieve accord and agreement in the full sense of the words in order to realize our Arab nation's aspirations.

Asked about the Arab role required to support the Palestinian state declared by the PNC in Algiers, firmly establish the Arab rights, and establish a homeland on occupied Palestinian soil, the custodian of the two holy mosques stresses the importance of intensifying Arab efforts on all levels to strengthen and support this state in light of the Palestinian peoplel's right to self- determination and the establishment of an independent state on their soil with Jerusalem as their capital.

King Fahd also points out that the Palestinian uprising, which has entered its 2d year, means that the Palestinian people are determined to regain their usurped legitimate rights regardless of the extent of the sacrifices. He affirms that the Palestinian uprising is a legitimate national struggle and says that the Palestinian people are able, with God's help, to continue the struggle until they achieve complete victory. He expresses hope that the international community will assume its historic reponsibility for regaining the Palestinian people's rights.

Asked about the Lebanese people's crisis, King Fahd says that many sides are trying silently to overcome the painful situation in Lebanon. He refers to the efforts being exerted by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi within the framework of Arab action in order to bring views close together. He affirms that what is important is that these honest efforts be understood by concerned Lebanese sides in favor of Lebanon's unity and its fraternal people.

The Saudi monarch also discusses the GCC's march and says that the GCC has made great achievements in the various economic, political, social, security, and defense areas over the past years. He adds that these achievements constitute the brotherly, serious, fruitful, and firm cooperation to achieve the goals in the face of current challenges, preserve ourselves, and contribute to entrenching just peace, which will make the international community happy by providing security.

Regarding the security agreement among GCC countries, he says that its success practically depends on implementation and that the legal and formal issues will be completed through the concerned channels in each country, stressing that to preserve the achievements in the GCC countries, we should thank God first and then preserve what we have built and continue to build for the future.

Council of Ministers Welcomes PLO-U.S. Talks

LD2012103988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 Dec (SPA)—Deputizing for the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, 19 December in al-Yamama palace in the city of Riyadh.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that under royal guidance, the Council reviewed reports concerning the most prominent events and developments on the Arab scene.

Through these reports, the Council was informed about briefings made by official sources on the proceedings of the talks in Tunis between representatives of the PLO and U.S. officials. The Council expressed satisfaction with the climate of common understanding that prevailed during the first session of the talks.

In light of reports received, the Council examined the resumption of talks in Pakistan between the Afghan mujahidin and Soviet representatives. The Council voiced optimism over seeing the two sides attain the decisions to which the Afghan people aspire and which the Afghan mujahidin are striving to achieve. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM: U.S.-PLO Dialogue 'Positive Step'

JN1712185288 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Dec 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] The announcement by the United States that it will enter into negotiations with the PLO is a positive step on the road to establishing peace in the Middle East region. It is also a real victory for the policy of moderation and flexibility pursued by the PLO in accordance with the recent PNC resolutions.

This dialogue, as described in the U.S. President's statement, is an important step in peace efforts in particular, as it represents a serious development in Palestinian thinking on adopting realistic stands on key issues. This development in the U.S. stance was a result of the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—a manifestation of a stand characterized by flexibility. This stand has been well received by all the world's states.

The United States' acceptance of negotiations with the PLO is an operative embodiment of its continuously declared objective; namely, the attainment of peace in the Middle East. Such an objective will be impossible without a dialogue among all parties, foremost of which is the United States—an effective force throughout the world, not only in the Middle East.

The realistic Palestinian perspective and the flexibility characterizing it has managed to score a real victory for the Palestine question and to push the peace process forward by steps that might eventually lead to the realization of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

In any case, the U.S. stand will always have its importance in making peace in the region and will also have a strong and effective influence on accelerating the process of bringing about this peace in accordance with the international resolutions and endeavors seeking to establish a just peace in the Middle East—a peace that will end the state of tension, return usurped rights to their lawful owners, and grant the Palestinians their right to self-determination.

Any U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is undoubtedly a decisive factor in establishing peace in the region, and this would help bring about comprehensive security in the Middle East. This objective enjoys the support and backing of all peace-loving states throughout the world.

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Decision on PLO Dialogue 'Not Enough'

JN1712171388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Dec 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] A political decision—any political decision in any country and at any time—is not the end but the beginning of an event and of the events that follow, result from, and are connected to it. We remember this principle in assessing today the U.S. decision to open dialogue with the PLO.

In a preliminary assessment, this U.S. step is a positive one. The whole world unanimously agreed on this except the Zionist entity, which is lamenting its luck as if the United States had abandoned it, although U.S. officials clearly asserted their adherence to what they call "Israel's security."

However, this positive U.S. move needs additional moves to be really positive. First, it needs to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state.

Second, it needs a U.S. readiness to convene the international conference, which will guarantee the achievement of a just settlement. Third, it needs a U.S. move to, as one of its official described it, "save Israel from itself" by calling on it to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and recognize the rights of the people of Palestine.

On the other hand, this U.S. move needs to continue. It does not need to retreat or any threats to retreat. With this continuation, the United States will carry out its role, which the world is waiting for. If it is not fair, then at least it must not be far from justice, for justice is the strong foundation of peace.

Whether the United States continues in its dialogue or retreats from it, we, the Arabs, are optimistic about the future no matter what the possibilities may be, unlike the "faithful Zionist" Henry Kissinger, who declared yesterday his pessimism and claimed that the international conference will not lead to a "settlement."

With Washington's step yesterday, "Kissinger's steps" have ended since the Palestinian child Abu Hajar [father of the stone] broke his legs and said to him: Good-bye, "Mr Kissinger."

Certainly, the positive step is worthy of welcome. However, one step is not enough.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister on Economy, Ties With USSR

JN1712210988 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 15 Dec 88 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani in Sanaa by 'Alawi Muhammad 'Ali—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Ali] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, some time ago you made several economic decisions to reinforce the YAR economy and restore confidence in the riyal. Are there any new steps in this regard?

['Abd al-Ghani] The decisions that the Government made 2 years ago produced positive results. These steps included the rationalization of current Government expenditures and imports. Several other steps were taken in the monetary field. These measures have achieved the aspired objectives, including stopping the deterioration of the riyal's exchange rates compared with other currencies, and restoring strength to the YAR economy.

['Ali] How much finance is allocated to the third 5-year plan, and to what extent have oil revenues contributed to financing the plan?

['Abd al-Ghani] The third 5-year plan for economic and social development in the country included several projects in the agricultural, industrial, oil, and mineral fields and the completion of the remaining basic structures and infrastructures such as roads and water, transportation, education, health, and electricity projects. However, the major objectives and strategies of this plan are aimed at production after the country has begun to complete its basic structures. The investments earmarked for these projects are estimated at 40 billion riyals.

Oil production in our country began for the first time 2 years ago to cover part of local consumption. Exportation began at the end of last year. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih gave instructions that all oil revenues should be exploited in investment. However, oil revenues still do not meet development needs. Therefore, a considerable part of financing for the current plan still depends on bilateral cooperation with fraternal and friendly states and with Arab and international organizations and institutions. [passage omitted]

['Ali] A few weeks ago, you celebrated the signing of the first agreement of friendship and trade with the USSR. Howe do you view the YAR's relations with the USSR, and what are the prospects of future cooperation between the two sides?

['Abd al-Ghani] Our relations with the USSR are excellent. These relations are in harmony with our foreign policy—based on the revolution's objectives and the principles included in the national charter. From this premise, we are proud of our relations with the USSR, which have become developed and deep-rooted. [passage omitted]

Iraqi RCC Member Hasan 'Ali Arrives 20 Dec

JN2012112888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Sanaa, 20 Dec (INA)—RCC Member Hasan 'Ali, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived here today.

In a press statement on arrival, Hasan 'Ali said that he is carrying a written message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral relations.

Conveys Message to President

JN2012135588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this afternoon brother Hasan 'Ali, member of the RCC in the Republic of Iraq, who conveyed a message to the brother leader from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with bilateral relations, the Arab and international issues of interest to the two fraternal countries, and the current developments both in the Arab and international arenas.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee.

Makes Statement, Leaves

JN2012185788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] RCC member Hasan 'Ali left Sanaa this afternoon after a short visit to our country, during which he conveyed a message to brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to SABA', brother Hasan 'Ali described his visit as successful and useful for the two fraternal countries. He also pointed out that the brother leader president asked him to convey his greetings and wishes to President Saddam Husayn and the fraternal Iraqi people. He was seen off by brother Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; the official in charge of presidential protocol; and brother Taha Mahmud, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

'Minutes' of Joint Committee Meeting With Jordan

JN1912100588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 88

["Text" of the minutes of the fourth session of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee held in Baghdad from 17-18 December 1988]

[Text] Proceeding from the existing fraternal relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Iraqi Republic whose foundations were set by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Saddam Husayn, in harmony with their directives to deepen these relations in all fields, and out of the two fraternal countries' faith in their common destiny, the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee held its fourth session in Baghdad from 17-18 December 1988. The Jordanian side was headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister.

The two sides read the followup reports submitted by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee and expressed full satisfaction with the progress of relations between the two countries and the advanced level reached by these relations.The following took place:

First, reading of the minutes of the ninth meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Ministerial Committee which was held in Baghdad from 14-18 December 1988 and which covered cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture, energy, industry, transport, communications, finance, health, and contracting, and approval of the recommendations contained therein.

Second, agreement to increase the volume of trade exchange between the two countries to $800 million in 1989.

Third, in accordance with the decision to unify the the Iraqi and Jordanian markets in the industrial and national products sectors, and with the view to expanding the base of industrial integration, agreement was reached on the following:

Calling the ministers of industry and trade in both countries or their representatives to meet during the next 3 months in order to draw up a practical plan for implementing the unity of the two markets in the industrial sectors as defined during the previous session of the Higher Committee and to expand these sectors so that the program will include:

1. Studying the economic feasibilities of the existing projects in both countries.

2. Facilitating the movement of production factors, especially manpower and raw materials that go into production and the final products.

3. Planning future investment programs in these sectors in order to achieve integration between the two countries.

4. Drawing up a timetable for establishing a unified tariff wall for these sectors versus the outside the world.

Fourth, the Higher Committee read the work plan on the agricultural sector submitted by the ministers of agriculture in both countries on 16 June 1988, approved the recommendations contained therein, and called upon both ministries to implement it.

Fifth, the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee for Industry called for expediting the establishment of new development projects depending on raw materials available in both countries; especially the production of fodder, medicine, foodstuffs, and the materials needed for drip irrigation, canning, and wrapping through companies to which the private sector in both countries will contribute the bigger part of the capital. Sixth, In continuation of the steps to lay the main foundations of economic integration, the competent quarters in both countries have decided to carry out the following studies and to submit their reports to the next meeting of the Higher Committee:

1. Linking the national grids of the two countries as an initial step toward linking the Arab East to the Arab Maghreb.

2. Integration in the field of transport and linking the two countries by a railroad.

Seventh, the next meeting of the committee shall be held in Amman in January 1989. The exact date of the meeting shall be fixed later by the co-chairmen of the committee.

In the meantime, the minutes of the session of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee for 1989 have been signed. The minutes include the following:

In the Field of Trade

1. The volume of trade exchange between the two countries has been set at $800 million.

2. The sum of $75 million each has been allocated for the Iraqi Trade Center in Amman and the Jordanian Trade Center in Baghdad.

3. An exhibition for Jordanian goods shall be set up in Baghdad and another for Iraqi goods in Amman in order to introduce the citizens of both countries to these goods and to permit direct sale in the sum of $200 million for each side.

4. Trade between the two countries shall be developed in order to remove any obstacles against the smooth flow of both countries' national goods and to give priority to imports from either country.

5. Jordanian companies shall continue to ensure the supply of goods of Jordanian origin to Iraqi companies.

In the Industrial Field

The two sides shall continue to cooperate and coordinate in the industrial field to establish new industries in order to achieve steps of industrial and economic integration.

The two sides shall continue to cooperate in the field of measurements and specifications.

The two sides shall emphasize the need for serious and wider cooperation in the fields of researches and studies between the competent companies, establishments, and institutions in both countries in general and in the field of phosphate fertilizers and medicines in particular. The specialized establishments and organizations shall also coordinate their work in providing consultation and engineering services in the fields of designing and transferring technology.

The Iraqi-Jordanian Company shall be urged to carry out the projects whose economic feasibility has been proven and to give priority to projects whose raw materials are available in both countries.

The joint company shall consider establishing new industrial projects in the following areas:

—fodder industry;

—medicines industries;

—irrigation equipment and requirements.

In the Field of Agriculture

1. Cooperation in the field of information, expertise, and training exchanges.

2. Cooperation in the field of exchanging agricultural items especially in:
   a. Hatching and table eggs
   b. Fodder
   c. Medicines and vaccines
   d. Requirements of hot house agriculture

3. Future cooperation:
   a. Agricultural research
   b. Developing plant production
   c. Cooperation in the area of agricultural pests
   d. Cooperation in the area of irrigation
   e. Cooperation in the protection of the environment

In the Field of Energy

Oil:

1. Keeping the storage and delivery agreement in operation.

2. Continuing to supply the Jordanian market's requirements of Iraqi oil and its derivatives.

Electricity:

1. Continuing studies to link the Al-Rishah power station in Jordan with the Ratbah power station in Iraq through a high voltage electricity line to join the two countries' grids and complete the linkage.

2. Building a regional maintenance center for cooperation between the two countries in the areas related to services to maintaining generation stations and power grids.

In the Field of Transport

The necessity of reinforcing, developing, and diversifying means of transport, communications to complete the requirements of economic integration in all fields, and the formation of a joint technical committee to look into linking the two countries by a railway line.

In the Field of Health

1. Exchanging expertise and informtion in the area of maternal and child care

2. Training health personnel in Jordanian institutes and hospitals

3. Running joint courses in the field of prevention

In the Contract Sector

The two sides have agreed to encourage and facilitate participation of contractors in the two countries in implementing development projects, especially in road and construction on a competetive basis.

The agreement was signed on the Jordanian side by Hamdi al-Tabba', industry and trade minister. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, minister of transport and communications, signed for Iraq.

The delegation comprised the ministers of transport, communications, finance, energy and mineral resources, trade and industry, and state minister for cabinet affairs, as well as the governor of Jordan's Central Bank, Royal Jordanian's board chairman, and the prime minister's office head.

USSR Foreign Ministry Official Visits President

JN2012200488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister. Mr Bessmertnykh conveyed to President leader Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership the greetings of President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership, their wishes of success for Iraq under the shadow of peace, and the Soviet Union's desire to continue promoting the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

President leader Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's intention to continue promoting relations with the Soviet Union, which have always been characterized by firmness and the coverage of many vital fields. He also stressed Iraq's keenness on maintaining the principled bases of these relations in the joint interests of the two friendly countries and the issues of peace, stability and fruitful cooperation in the region and the world.

During the talks, which continued for 2 and ½ hours, the two sides discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran negotiations and the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon, issues of the region, and issues of common concern. The talks were attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the secretary of the president; and the Iraqi and Soviet ambassadors in Moscow and Baghdad.

USSR Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Ramadan

JN2012211088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this evening received the Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Mr Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presedium and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan.

Nishanov conveyed the greetings of Soviet President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership to the president leader, Saddam Husayn. He also stressed the Soviet Union's desire to continue promoting its relations with Iraq in various fields.

Mr Ramadan conveyed through Mr Nishanov the greetings of the president leader, Saddam Husayn, to President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership, and the intent of Iraq's leadership and people to continue promoting relations between the two friendly countries.

The two sides discussed prospects for bilateral relations and stressed the importance of finding new fields to develop and promote the level of ties. The meeting was attended by Baha' al-Din Ahmad, National Assembly deputy speaker, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Parliamentary Delegation Departs

JN2012214388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation, headed by Mr Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Soviet parliamentary delegation held talks with officials on bolstering bilateral relations and important Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

The delegation was seen off by Baha' al-Din Ahmad, National Assembly deputy speaker, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Message

JN1512114388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, personal envoy to his excellency from his brother His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. Al-'Atiqi conveyed to the president an oral message from his brother the amir of Kuwait dealing with the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and developments of the Palestine question and the Arab situation. The meeting was attended by the president's secretary and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Departs 20 Dec

JN2012132388 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 20, INA—Mr. Larry Pressler, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. Congress and the accompanying delegation this morning left here, concluding a three-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the U.S. official held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on developing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Transport Minister Returns From Cairo Visit

JN1512124088 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec.15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communication Mr. Muhammad Hamzah returned here today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the ministerial council of the General Assembly of the Arab Bridge Navigation Company which were recently held in Cairo.

The meetings took a number of important decisions concerning the strategy of the Arab company for naval and land shipment which aims at serving the member states in the fields of marine and overland transport and to link eastern and western parts of the Arab homeland.

The company's membership includes Iraq, Egypt and Jordan.

Sudanese Army Chief Departs Following Visit

JN1912115088 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 19, INA—General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander-in-chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, today left Baghdad ending a week-long visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA before departure, General 'Ali paid tribute to the capabilities and potentials of the Iraqi Armed Forces saying that they are a source of pride to every Arab keen over the safety of his homeland. He also paid tribute to the progress and big development witnessed by Iraq particularly in the field of military industrialization which he said is considered an impetus to the Arab armed forces.

The Sudanese general also expressed thanks to the Iraqi people's stand alongside Sudan during the floods that swept it recently.

Paper Urges 'Official Signing' of Cease-Fire Pact

JN1712112688 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-QADISIYAH said that the serious view towards comprehensive peace and the sincere desires to abide by its right choice are stemmed from consolidating the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran according to the Resolution No. 598, otherwise, the time of the ceasefire on the battle front is a time used to continue fighting and war by Iran, the daily added.

In a commentary here today the daily said that the official signing on ceasefire in a joint minute ensures the committment not to work against peace and not to return to the atmosphere of war and aggression and it is considered a guarantee to advance towards other items and paragraphs of the international resolution, especially the destruction of war had devastated the basic structure in Iran. [sentence as received]

At the conclusion of its commentary the daily asked the world peace loving countries to force Iran to respond to the international community will according to a bilateral agreement that gives back to each side its quietness, stability and security on its soil and ensures its just rights.

Likud Central Committee Approves Unity Government
TA2112054288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Likud Central Committee has approved Prime Minister Shamir's proposal for a broadly-based government with the Labor Party; 796 committee members voted in favor, while 642 were opposed. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The vote shows that there were many doubts and anxieties within the Likud about forming a broadly-based coalition, said Ari'el Sharon immediately after the results were announced. However, he will be joining the coalition government. [passage omitted]

Last night's vote came after an extremely tense debate at the Yad Eliyahu Stadium, in which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was repeatedly interrupted by catcalls and boos from opponents of the broadly based government—an unprecedented phenomenon within the Likud. The chairman of the Central Committee, Ari'el Sharon, could barely control the very vocal opposition from the audience at the sports stadium—what at some point Shamir called a circus.

Shamir himself did not wait for the results to be announced in the early hours of the morning, but before he left, I asked him if he saw the vote as a test of his own leadership.

[Shamir] I don't think about such things. I do what I have to do.

[Zinder] There is so much opposition in your party to this move. Why do you feel it is necessary at this time to set up a government together with the Labor Party?

[Shamir] Well, it is a necessity of our situation, in order to phase out our political difficulties, especially the difficulties on the international scene. We have to stand together.

[Zinder] [Passage omitted] Yitzhaq Shamir also announced last night that David Levi will continue to serve as deputy prime minister. Labor sources are saying that is not part of the coalition agreement and is not acceptable to them. [end recording]

Alignment Ministers Approve Coalition Agreement
TA2012142088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The Alignment ministers have approved the agreement reached with the Likud over the establishment of a broad-based government. The agreement will be submitted to the Labor Party Central Committee tomorrow for ratification.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 December adds: "Briefing the meeting of Alignment ministers, the Labor Party negotiating team reported that it had categorically rejected the Likud's proposal to appoint Minister David Levi as second vice prime minister. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the ministers unanimously agreed that Shim'on Peres would be one who appoints ministers on behalf of his party. The Alignment ministers noted their satisfaction about the agreement with the Likud, but decided to demand that the chairman of the coalition executive be a member of their party. Our correspondent has learned that the Alignment may forego the position of deputy foreign minister if the Likud agrees to give up the position of deputy finance minister or deputy defense minister."]

Shamir Addresses Likud Central Committee
TA2012183288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1627 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Likud Central Committee session at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliyahu stadium called to endorse the coalition agreement with the Alignment—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] Many people, particularly in Europe but also in the United States, have tired of praising the feats of the heroes of the 6-Day War and Entebbe and similar operations, of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to save Jews living under oppressive regimes. There is a wish to change the script, to alter the order and image of the protagonists of the never-ending show of international conflicts. The victory of justice has become a boring routine, and the scenery must be changed.

All this is happening at a time of ongoing changes in relations between the superpowers which, each for its own reasons, want to reduce the number of mutual points of friction in a bid to overcome and settle regional conflicts so that these do not stand in their way of achieving vital agreements for the stabilization of their relations.

I believe the superpowers know that the Arab-Israeli conflict is very tough and complex. The Middle East is an unstable region, and the hostility of most Arab countries toward Israel only contributes to this instability. Nevertheless, in some major capitals around the world, there is a tendency to tone down or solve this conflict, either fully or partially, so that it stops being a focus of conflict preventing the superpowers from achieving their objectives. A situation could develop in which Israel might be asked to pay a price at the expense of its security and future to facilitate quiet in the international arena.

I need not reiterate how vast and genuine is our wish for peace, real peace, and how vital peace is to our security and future. After all, we have proved as much in deeds

and precious sacrifices. But we are facing an international lineup which aspires to take from us assets vital to our security and national future, by taking away large parts of the homeland to please the Arab countries in order to achieve quiet and stability.

This is a very dangerous lineup. After all, there is no doubt that peace will not be attained by seating the terrorist leaders, such as 'Arafat, at the negotiating table and by giving legitimacy to a terrorist organization whose leader was only 2 weeks ago declared a terrorist figure who would not be allowed to set foot on the soil of the leader of the free and democratic world.

Peace will not be achieved by giving any legitimacy to those who disseminate deceptions and lies, murder and cruelty.

[Words indistinct overlaid with announcer's summation] ...the United States, which decided to swim with the tide. We will have to fight this wave. I suggest that we do not belittle the potency of this wave, and at the same time, we should not belittle our strength and ability to fight it. We have already faced up to challenges and obstacles, but in order to do so we must fulfill certain requirements.

The current struggle is against the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as the first phase in the PLO's plan. The United States opposes this but the pressures are growing. I do not want to elaborate on the dangerous development that occurred in the United States a few days ago, which shocked us. This turning point revealed to us the extent of the danger entailed in the change in the position of the United States, our ally and friend.

A large part of our security strength and international status is based on our relationship with the United States. We have also seen the weakness of some parties which had always stood by us, but failed to do so in times of trouble. This is not the first time we have had to face such situations, and we have always found it in ourselves and in our friends the strength to withstand the waves of danger and repel them.

This time, the wave is very strong and we have not yet seen the end of it. We have been receiving alerts from many places around the world where our assets—sympathy, support, and understanding—are in danger. We feel and realize, without panicking, that we must mobilize and rally around. [Words indistinct due to superimposed commentary by radio correspondent and catcalls from the floor]

Of course, the mobilization of forces must be done mainly in the United States, but it must be directed from here, from Israel. Our friends in the United States and all over the world are inundating us with requests and pleas: for God's sake, come to us united, speak as one man—your model of unity will influence us and world public opinion at large, and will give us more faith in our and your justice. [applause] Together we will repel the murky waves of attacks against us. Who better than us knows the hardship involved in uniting the various forces and factions?

Only 2 months ago, we experienced daily and feverish confrontations during the elections and we were involved in a domestic political struggle to conquer the sympathy, heart, and conscience of the people. In the November election campaign, we conducted the confrontation with the Alignment with firmness and strength; we used our persuasive ability and the faith in our ideology, and we obtained good results. Of course, we would have liked better results. In the wake of the internal confrontation, however, the time has come to face the national political struggle.

There is a time to fight and argue, and a time to unite and rally forces. The time has come to present a united front against all those who are trying to do us in and endanger our security and position. The danger is so serious, to the point that it is not difficult to define it together despite the differences of opinion between us. [applause and heckling]

What is at stake is facing up to the danger of the establishment of a Palestinian state. After all, both we, the Labor Party, and the majority of the Israeli public see such a state as a serious danger to our existence. Therefore, we must all stand united against this danger. [applause]

[Words indistinct due to comments by radio correspondent] ...a wide-scale international effort to push us into the suffocating border lines of 1967 in the next 1 to 2 years. Any person in this country who is not a member of the extreme left wing is prepared to take part in the fight against this tendency and conspiracy.

That is why I say that our stand together is not only necessary, but also possible. Based on this assessment of the situation, we arrived at the notion of setting up a broad-based joint government. [booing from the floor] We are aware of its difficulties and risks, but at such a time, one must see the priorities called for by the situation. The first priority now is to rally all the strength of the Israeli people to prevent this danger from coming true—and what is at stake is a very serious danger.

What is guiding us is a supreme interest: the security of the state, the security of the people. In the face of this interest—for which sacrifices must be made on things that are important in ordinary times—today, many important issues pale when confronted with the state's needs.

Dear friends, there are those who do not want to repeat the experience of the last 4 years. [booing] But we should remember the dangers we managed to prevent in those 4 years, and what we did for the economy and its recovery.

Who in this audience does not know that in the past 2 years we faced the danger of an international conference which very soon would have led to the establishment of a Palestinian state. [booing and applause] Who prevented that, and how did we prevent that in the government of which we were part, the government I headed?

[Words indistinct due to comments by radio correspondent]...to carry out a similar experiment, but from a stronger and more promising position. The Israeli public today places its trust in us, in the Likud. We are not regarded as an extremist group, but are seen as the main force of Israel and of the people, the force that does not serve partisan, personal, and factional interests. If we proceed on this road, my promise to all of us is that we will grow and become stronger and stronger from one election to another. [applause]

The people want a credible and united leadership, and it knows that only the Likud can generate such a leadership. [applause]

My friends, when I tried to form a government that would represent the vast majority of the people and I realized that the Labor Party was not prepared to cooperate with us, I made an immense effort to form a government comprised of all the other forces in the Knesset. I ran into great difficulties and obstacles, and had I succeeded in setting up such a government, it would have lasted only a short time due to the controversies and conflicts in its midst.

Therefore, we tried once again to set up a broad-based government. I hope that both the Labor Party and our partners in the religious parties and other forces will be part of it. These elements will reconsider their position and realize that we made honest and fair proposals—and they will come around.

According to party procedures, I present to you, members of the Central Committee, the list of Likud ministers who will be included in the government I will present to the Knesset in the coming days. I call on you to endorse it. I will read out only the names of the ministers, without mentioning the posts they will hold in the government, because there might be changes during the next few days.

I call on you to endorse the list and empower me to impose on them their tasks in the government. [applause and heckling] Number one is a comrade I would like to say a few words about—our friend and vice chairman of the movement—David Levi. [applause and heckling; Minister Ari'el Sharon calls for order] Our friend David Levi, minister of construction and housing—who will continue in his post in the next government—fought with all his might [words indistinct due to heckling]. For me, it was obvious that in a unity government he would be vice prime minister under me. [applause]

Today, somebody found it necessary to say on the Voice of Israel that they reject this. I say to them: Those remarks do not obligate us. David Levi is vice prime minister. [applause—IDF Radio commentator notes that the preceding statement, on the establishment of the post of second vice prime minister, was the one surprise in Shamir's speech] David Levi, Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Moda'i, Moshe Nisim, Dan Meridor, Roni Milo, Moshe Qatzav, Ehud Olmert, and Ari'el Sharon. That is my proposal, and I call for its endorsement. [applause]

During the past few days, we heard a lot of criticism about the way.... [words indistinct due to commentator's remarks]. We will decide by a vote, not by shouting [applause]. I recently heard a lot of statements opposing the establishment of a broad-based government. I say that each person—each party member—has the right to believe anything he wishes and to say want he thinks, but I want the Central Committee members to know—I want you to listen now—that if my proposal for the composition of the government does not receive the endorsement of the Central Committee, I will be forced to return to the president the mandate he gave me when he imposed on me the task of setting up a government.

Shamir: Levi is 'Secondary' Vice Prime Minister

TA2112074488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Deqel] Eyebrows were raised in the Alignment as well as in the Likud. Suddenly, without any prior announcement, a new vice prime minister to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sprang up. Not only Shim'on Peres, but also David Levi, will be vice prime minister. The Alignment was quick to respond: This appointment was not raised at all in the Alignment-Likud talks, and there is no other vice prime minister besides Shim'on Peres. David Levi, however, expects Yitzhaq Shamir to honor his commitment.

[Levi] I heard from the prime minister that he demanded that the Alignment grant a Likud vice prime minister, and proposed a name. He in fact told the central committee that the Alignment position is not important, that he insists on it, and that will be the situation. This statement to the Likud Central Committee, and the expected vote, is not only binding, but is also a test of the Likud leader's standing.

[Deqel] But Prime Minister Shamir has a slightly different interpretation.

[Shamir] What is vice prime minister? According to the agreement the vice prime minister is Shim'on Peres, but David is secondary [hamishni] vice prime minister. For instance, if I am not here, and Shim'on Peres is not here, then David will replace us. There is no doubt about that.

[Deqel] Thus, there is a vice prime minister and a secondary vice prime minister, as well as two or three deputies, to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the new government. [end recording]

Further on Guidelines for New Government

TA2012165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] According to the agreement between the Likud and the Alignment, it will again be stated in the government's basic guidelines that the PLO is not an acceptable interlocutor for talks with Israel and that the government will place the aspiration for peace at the top of its priorities—the government will strive to make peace on the basis of the Camp David accords.

The government will also work to strengthen peace with Egypt and will call on Jordan to open negotiations. The agreement adds that Israel will encourage representatives of the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to participate in the peace process.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that an Inner Cabinet comprised of an equal number of ministers from the Likud and the Alignment will be empowered to discuss political and security issues as well as any matter appearing in the government guidelines. It was further agreed that between five and eight new settlements would be set up during the first year of the government's rule and that the establishment of any additional settlement in following years would be subject to the approval of both parties.

'Secret Appendix' to Coalition Agreement Reported

TA2112070588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Studio discussion between moderator Shalom Qital and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] There is a secret understanding—or appendix—to the Likud-Alignment coalition agreement. This understanding, like the coalition agreement, will be initialed this morning.

[Qital] This means that last night the Likud Central Committee endorsed an agreement that has not been signed.

[Ben-'Ami] That is correct. Anyway, the secret appendix determines the working arrangements between the prime minister and the vice prime minister on political issues. It has several interesting clauses. For instance, it clearly states that Israel's foreign policy will be dealt with exclusively by the Foreign Ministry. The finance minister's portfolio does not include foreign policy.

The prime minister and the vice prime minister, the appendix says, will hold talks on ongoing diplomatic issues prior to making decisions in this field.

The appendix says that the finance minister will receive for his perusal the daily list of cables. That is the pouch containing secret cables which is distributed to the prime minister, foreign minister, and the defense minister for their consideration. The finance minister will now also be added to the list of those who read the cables.

[Qital] He will also be an addressee for the cables.

[Ben-'Ami] Correct. The appendix also says that there will be no change in the sovereignty in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip without agreement by both sides. The Likud and the Alignment will have to agree to any change in sovereignty.

The appendix also contains clauses linked to the appointment of senior officials. It is the normal practice to have clauses or appendices in coalition agreements on such matters as the appointment of the heads of Mosad and Shin Bet. A change has been made to the secret appendix of the previous agreement, which said that the head of Mosad and the Shin Bet are appointed by an agreement reached between the prime minister and the vice prime minister.

The secret appendix to the new agreement says that the heads of Mosad and the Shin Bet will be appointed by the prime minister after consultations with the vice prime minister. There is also a mechanism to determine the appointment of police commissioner and the governor of the Bank of Israel: The minister makes a recommendation and the appointment is made by the prime minister.

[Qital] As in the outgoing government, an Inner Cabinet is again expected to be set up. There will be parity in representation within the Inner Cabinet with five members for each of the two major parties, as was the case in the previous government. In addition, the previous informal setup of a mini-cabinet will now be formalized. It was previously called the prime ministers' forum.

[Ben-'Ami] It will now be called the defense ministers' forum because all the members will be former defense ministers, while not all have been prime ministers. Moshe Arens has not yet been prime minister.

[Qital] The forum will be made up of Shamir, Peres, Rabin, and Arens.

[Ben-'Ami] Correct. It will be called the forum of four.

[Qital] Beside that, another forum of four is expected on economic matters.

[Ben-'Ami] Correct. There will be a ministerial economics committee. By the way, the agreement says that the chairman of the ministerial economics committee is a Labor man—he is, of course, the finance minister. His deputy is a Likud member. It is the forum that will determine and manage all economic matters, of course in consultation with the prime minister.

You have noticed, of course, that the control mechanisms completely block, or control, each other so that the prime minister has a certain advantage, but in general there is a perfect balance. [passage omitted]

SHAS, Tehiya Decide To Join Opposition

TA2012122588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Tehiya are going into opposition. Knesset Members [MK's] Yitzhaq Peretz from SHAS and Ge'ula Kohen from Tehiya announced on our midday program that the prime minister has advised them that he will be unable to honor his commitments to their parties, as a result of which they will not join the new government.

Agudat Yisra'el is threatening not to join the coalition. Agudat Yisra'el MK Feldman told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that Mr Shamir has advised his party that it will get the Labor and Social Affairs portfolio and the position of deputy minister in charge of rental housing. Rabbi Feldman said his party is disappointed with the fact that it will not receive the second portfolio it was promised.

NRP Not To Join Government 'at This Point'

TA2012212388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] Bureau passed a resolution this evening stating that at this point it will not join the government before receiving clarifications and answers from Mr Shamir.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the negotiating team was entrusted with the task of exhausting the contacts in order to create conditions that would allow it to join the government. Nevertheless, the NRP resents the fact that the promise to give it the Education portfolio is not being fulfilled. It called on the two major parties to put off the establishment of the government to next week in order to exhaust the process fully.

Poll Shows Majority in Favor of New Elections

TA2012133588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] A majority of the Israeli public favors new elections, but most of the voters would not have voted any differently than they did in November. This is the conclusion of a nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ and conducted by the PORI Institute during the first week of December.

The results show that 48.3 percent of the population favors holding new elections without condition, and an additional 13.4 percent favors new elections if the electoral system is changed. On the whole, 61.7 percent favors new elections.

The number of those favoring new elections is particularly high among those who voted for the Alignment, and now stands at 74.8 percent. Among Likud supporters, 58.4 percent favor new elections.

The poll shows, however, that had new elections taken place today, their results would not have been any different, because 74.8 percent said that they would not have voted any differently than they did in the November elections.

Only 14.4 percent said they would have changed their vote; the rest—10.8 percent—are undecided, would not have voted at all, or refused to answer.

PORI Manager Refa'el Gil, director of the poll, notes that the number of those who say that they would have voted the same is equal for supporters of both the Likud and the Alignment. In both these groups, 84 percent said they would have voted the same.

The poll was conducted on a representative sampling from the Jewish population of 1,200 men and women over the age of 18 who are eligible voters. They were interviewed personally with full confidentiality.

Shamir-Rabin 'Super Autonomy' Plan Reported

TA2112062788 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 21 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Giyora Shamis]

[Text] The alliance between Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin, which was forged when the Palestinian uprising began last year, was reinforced in mid-November when the two leaders reached a secret understanding on the granting of autonomy.

Their plan is what we are likely to be hearing a great deal about in the coming months. The essence of the scheme was worked out a decade ago during Camp David, and has carried various labels ever since—autonomy, unilateral autonomy, and "super autonomy," as Shamir and Rabin call it.

Many political pundits and journalists have proclaimed autonomy long dead, especially in the wake of the intifadah [uprising]. But the experts, as we learn every day, are often wrong. Cabinet secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein worked out the fine points of the super autonomy plan, and was helped quietly by Supreme Court Judge

Aharon Baraq, author of the Camp David autonomy plan (which provides for a measure of Palestinian self rule for a period of five years, until a final settlement can be reached).

Secretary of State George Shultz was kept fully informed as each section of the plan was completed. The Palestinian super autonomy system is to be established during 1990 in the densely populated Arab areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The IDF is to pull back from the cities of Gaza, Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron, and redeploy on the heights of the Judaea-Samaria mountain ridge and along the Jordan valley.

Most Palestinian autonomy institutions will be housed in the Arab sector of unified Jerusalem. 'Arafat has agreed to demilitarize the territories. Earlier this month, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the prime minister's eminence grise, went to Washington to update the incoming Bush administration on the Shamir-Rabin plan.

Ben-Aharon requested the American good offices in bringing about the formation of Shamir-Rabin understanding. The Bush people apparently liked what they heard. The incoming National Security Adviser, Brent Scowcroft is to visit Jerusalem soon in order to put the final touches on the U.S.-Israel understanding. But Bush jumped the gun and went ahead and launched his own dialogue with 'Arafat, leaving Shamir behind.

Labor Doves Forum Discusses 'Arafat, Settlements

TA1812145988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The forum of the Labor Party doves today decided to make an effort to convince the Labor Party and the public of the merit of its just ideas. The main points of these ideas are that 'Arafat's recent statements constitute the opening of a new chapter in the political process and, if accompanied by a halt in terror, might lead to peace negotiations.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a document drafted by the doves today says, in addition to the above, that they object to the establishment of new settlements, and demand that the idea of joining a government that rejects a dialogue with the PLO be reconsidered. Among the participants of the forum were Knesset Members Arye Eli'av, Hayim Ramon, Ora Namir, and Avraham Burg, and party members Hayim Tzadoq and Efrayim Sne. Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am was absent from the forum, but has sent a telegram of support.

Labor Minister: PLO 'Full Partner' in Talks

TA1812115388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Dec 88 pp 1, 13

[Report on interview with Minister Mordekhay Gur by Orli Azulay-Katz on 17 December; place not given]

[Excerpt] Alignment Minister Mordekhay Gur views the PLO as an obvious and full partner in political talks to solve the Middle East conflict.

In an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Gur said last night that the PLO is moving toward a political settlement instead of a military confrontation. Gur said he reached this conclusion after the Algiers conference, having studied documents and delving into the issue. He refused to comment publicly at the time because the conclusion he reached contradicted that of his party.

Last night Mordekhay Gur spoke openly for the first time, saying that 'Arafat's news conference in Geneva strengthened this realization. He said that for the PLO, if no political continuation emerges from the intifadah [uprising], it would mean an additional disaster for the Palestinian people; for Israel, it would mean the continuation of the confrontation with the Arab world, leading to a renewed danger of war.

Gur revealed last night that he has held many talks with Arab leaders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip since June, which strengthened his belief that a change was about to take place. Gur urged an immediate positive response to the changes taking place in the PLO so that the organization would take practical and demonstrative steps toward a genuine halt to terrorism. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Hails First U.S.-PLO Contact

TA2012185288 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Dec 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-U.S. Dialogue"]

[Text] In the Tunisian capital yesterday, the first official contact was launched between the PLO and the U.S. Government. This is in implementation of the U.S. decision announced by George Shultz 2 days ago on Washington's readiness to open a direct and substantive dialogue with the PLO in light of the new realities and developments that have affected the region for over a year.

Yesterday's meeting between PLO representatives and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, who has been delegated by his government to begin the dialogue with the PLO, represents the first positive step on the road toward the U.S. Administration's recognition of an independent Palestinian state proclaimed by the PNC in Algiers, a state recognized and welcomed by all countries of the world. This also represents the first positive step for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East with the aim of laying the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Thus, the U.S. Administration's retreat from its previous positions toward the PLO, which came as a result of the objective circumstances in the region, not only represents a victory for the Palestinian people whose uprising has entered its second year, but is also a victory for

justice and the principles of international legitimacy which has acknowledged and called for the implementation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

All indications affirm the existence of positive developments on the international scene which will have decisive results on the future of peace in this region. These developments have drawn the attention of all the world's countries, particularly the Security Council's five permanent member states, which yesterday began contacts among themselves to prepare the convocation of the preparatory committee for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

While we view the new U.S. position toward the PLO with satisfaction and as representing an important objective change in U.S. diplomatic decisionmaking, we believe that the credibility of this position will hinge on U.S. deeds. If the United States is really serious in opening the dialogue with the aim of achieving peace in the region, it should follow this step with further ones that speed up the convocation of an international conference based on the international pattern, and should exert effective pressures on Israel to force it to stop its practices in the occupied territories.

Sinyurah Comments on U.S. Dialogue Decision

TA2012151988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 19 Dec 88 p 16

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor in chief, by Mahir Abu Khatir—place, date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you feel about the shift in U.S. policy toward the Palestinian question and what do you attribute this shift to?

A: The dialogue that has started between the PLO and the U.S. Administration in Tunis removed one of the two main obstacles remaining for the holding of an international peace conference. It also left a constructive legacy by the Reagan administration for the incoming Bush team to build on. It shortened by two years both international and Palestinian efforts to open such a dialogue with the Bush administration, and it relieved the Bush administration from being subjected with added constraints for such a dialogue.

The intifada [uprising], the popular upheaval of the Palestinian people, has been the main cause of the basic shift in U.S. policy as a result of historic changes ratified by the PNC in Algiers on November 15, 1988. Also we should not forget the major contribution of Mikhail Gorbachev in his moderating influence over the more radical factions of the PLO that led to those historic resolutions.

Q: 'Arafat went a long way to accommodate U.S. demands to get them to agree to merely opening a dialogue with the PLO with strict restrictions. Meanwhile, Israel, the major party in the conflict, is not yet accommodated. Do you feel directing attention at the U.S. is worth the effort and will it yield the results the Palestinians are anxiously awaiting?

A: The normalization of relations with the Reagan administration helps the process of legitimization and humanization of the PLO. Its significance goes beyond establishing a PLO-U.S. dialogue. PLO relations with Western governments, including the European community, would be upgraded. At the same time, such a step by the U.S. will indirectly influence Israeli public opinion and pave the way for the more important step of dialogue and future negotiations between the two enemies: the PLO and the Israeli Government. The recent developments brighten the prospects of the peace process, although the obstacles still remaining should not be minimized. The road to the desired peace and coexistence is long and arduous and full of pitfalls.

Q: Palestinian diplomacy is at its height these days. What more can we do to continue gaining from this diplomacy?

A: The restored self-confidence apparent in both the ranks of the PLO and the Palestinian national movement in the occupied state is a direct result of the Intifada. It is playing a constructive role in our relations with both Israel and the international community. We are facing our responsibilities head on, not trying to evade the realities both on the ground in our region, and the sentiments of the world in relation to the state of Israel. This confidence has allowed realism, pragmatism and flexibility to surface in the political attitudes of the representatives of the Palestinian people at the Palestine National Council.

It helped Chairman 'Arafat and Palestinian diplomacy achieve important breakthroughs and paved the way for achieving the main goal of the Palestinian people, the establishment of detente with their present adversary the Israeli people, in order that together they may implement a two-state solution in mandatory Palestine.

Q: You have just returned home from a relatively long trip abroad. How would you evaluate international reaction to the Palestinian drive toward peace and Israel's intransigent position?

A: With my colleague, the president of the Gaza Bar Association, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, we had an extensive trip with many contacts both in the U.S. and Europe. We attended UN meetings in New York, the Socialist International in Paris, and meetings of the Arab League and the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce to salute the efforts of the Palestinian people under occupation. We also had contacts with the French government and the French Jewish community.

The international scene is ready for constructive changes in our region, where the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people will be safeguarded. The resolutions

taken by the PNC in Algiers translate into political language the huge sacrifices of the Intifada and continue to open doors that will eventually lead to end the occupation.

AL-SHA'B: Darwish Supports 'Arafat Initiatives

TA2012145488 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Dec 88 p 1, 8

[Text] The Islamic movement operating in the Arab sector inside Israel declared 2 days ago that it supports the PNC resolutions of the recent session in Algiers, endorses the decision on proclaiming an independent Palestinian state, and supports the activities undertaken by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat within the framework of the peace campaign.

It has been learned that the Islamic movement inside Israel issued a statement with the consent of the movement's leader, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish from Kafr Qasim.

Shaykh Darwish condemned statements opposing the Palestinian peace initiative and said that the PLO chairman now needs the widest backing for his initiative; opposition to 'Arafat's steps harms the Palestinian people's interests, he added.

In another development, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the committee of Arab local councils, expressed his support for 'Arafat's peace initiative and called on Israel's leaders to respond positively to it.

Military Teams Begin Tabah Border Demarcation

TA1912113688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Egyptian and Israeli military teams today began placing the marker pillars along the border in accordance with the decisions of the international arbitration commission in Geneva. There are 14 marker stones of which the location was in dispute. In 10 cases, the commission decided in Egypt's favor and in 4 cases, in Israel's.

This morning the two teams began working at the northwest end of the border, placing pillar No 7 between Rafah and Kerem Shalom. The teams will use helicopters and heavy equipment provided by both armies. The work is being supervised by the MFO.

Shomron to Settlers: Road Security 'Top Priority'

TA2012113988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron today conferred in his office with representatives of Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria. The chief of staff said in the meeting that the top priority now is safeguarding the roads in the territories, even when only a single stone is thrown. Nevertheless, he stressed that there are no miracle cures and that cooperation between the Army and the settlers might bring about a reduction in violence. [passage omitted]

According to the settlers representatives, the chief of staff told them that he would consider setting up a joint forum of settlers and senior Army officers to deal with solving security problems in the field. They described the conversation as good, adding that if the forum is set up they will know that the meeting produced results.

Janin 'Terrorist' Squad Exposed; Houses Destroyed

TA2012183688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad that had been operating in Janin and the neighboring village of Bayt Qad. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the squad members are suspected of having attacked and wounded David Halawa, a resident of 'Afula, in Janin approximately 2 months ago.

Today the IDF demolished three houses and sealed off an additional house belonging to four members who had a central role in the squad. IDF sources report that the squad had 14 members. They are also suspected of having assaulted a local policeman approximately 2 months ago and of having taken part in riots.

Further on Incidents, Strikes in Territories

Strike, Curfews in Gaza Strip

TA2112090688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] There is a general strike in the territories and curfews are again in force in several places. The Nabulus curfew has now continued for almost 1 week, ever since the bloody events there last Friday [16 December]. A preemptive curfew has been placed on all Gaza Strip refugee camps. Reporting on the situation in the Gaza Strip is our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv:

A general commercial and services strike was declared this morning throughout the Gaza Strip by the regional Unified National Command of the Uprising. The strike is to mark Israeli Arabs' solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories. At the same time, the IDF commander in the region imposed a curfew on all eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip as a preemptive measure.

The towns have been quiet since morning, but there were stoning incidents in the north, in the Bayt Hanun area, where the windows of Israeli vehicles were smashed. Security forces were rushed in and dispersed the rioters from the main arteries. Other locations are quiet. Due to the general strike and curfews, people were not seen leaving for work in Israel, but many departed on Sunday and Monday when the earlier strike was breaking up.

Bus Stoned; Further on Curfews

TA2112104188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] A No 160 bus was stoned this morning in Halhul. Several of its windows were smashed but nobody was hurt. Several passengers got out and fired shots in the air.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there is a commercial strike in the territories today. Nabulus and its nearby refugee camps are still under curfew. There is also a curfew in Janin, Qalqilyah, and eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Nabulus Youth Dies of Wounds

TA2112123588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] A Nabulus resident, 'Abd al-Rahman, 23, died of his wounds today at a Ramallah hospital. The hospital reported that he was wounded during the riots in Nabulus at the end of last week.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that leaflet No 31 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising was distributed in the territories last night. The leaflet praises the uprising activists who managed to advance the Palestinian issue in the world, a success which became clear by the United States' decision to start a dialogue with the PLO. The leaflet calls on the inhabitants of the territories to expand the uprising and the opposition to the Israeli occupation. It also marks memorial days and strikes.

There were several disturbances in East Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that in Ra's al-'Amud and Bayt Safafa the windows of cabs were smashed by stones. In the Al-Sa'adiyah neighborhood, a police force dispersed a gathering of youths.

Civil Administration Cuts Funds Into Territories

TA1912095988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Dec 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] In a further effort to reduce the influx of PLO funds into the administered territories, the Civil Administration has halved the amount of money Palestinians may freely bring into the territories over the Jordan bridges and through the Rafah border crossing.

From tomorrow, they will be permitted to bring in only 200 Jordanian dinars (about $400) without prior permission. To bring in 200 to 500 dinars, they will have to explain why and declare that the money does not originate from hostile organizations. For more than 500 dinars, they will need a special permit.

Syrian Druze Want To Visit Golan Relatives

TA2112083088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Hundreds of Druze in Syria have asked the Israeli authorities to permit them to visit relatives in the Golan Heights. The request was transferred by Golan Druze who recently visited Syria. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that several dozen Druze are expected to return today from visits to relatives in Syria.

King Husayn Telephones Syria's Hafiz al-Asad

JN2012184488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two leaders exchanged views on current developments in the region and a number of pan-Arab issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Al-Rifa'i Returns From Talks in Iraq 18 Dec

JN1812192088 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his delegation returned to Amman this evening following an official 2-day visit to Iraq, during which he met with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also chaired Jordan's side at meetings of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi higher committee, which concluded in Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Infestation of Desert Locusts

Anti-Locust Teams Formed

JN1512144488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—Desert locusts began to invade Jordan yesterday evening when locust swarms arrived at the Al-Sahab al-Asmar area on the southern border of the Kingdom. The swarms cover an area estimated at 3 square km. Dr Salim al-Lawzi, under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that other swarms of desert locusts have entered Jordan from Al-Mudawwarah area. These swarms cover an area estimated at 12 square km.

He said that the Ministry immediately began to dispatch 12 units to these areas. He said these units are equipped with insecticides and equipment for fighting locusts. He added that the Ministry initiated coordination with the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Desert Force Command, and the Public Security Department, which provided all equipment necessary for fighting locusts, such as aircraft for surveillance and spraying, and passed information from areas affected by the invasion of locusts to the other concerned sides.

Al-Lawzi indicated that an operations room was set up at the Ministry, including all specialists on this matter to coordinate among the concerned quarters to run the fight against the locusts.

The Agriculture Ministry under secretary explained that the Ministry immediately asked for help from sisterly and friendly countries and the International Food and Agriculture Organization to provide the aid necessary to fight locusts.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Humud and a number of ministry specialists inspected the southern areas invaded by desert locusts. He was acquainted with the efforts by the Ministry's units with the assistance of the Jordanian Armed Forces and Desert Forces to fight locusts.

One Locust Swarm 'Wiped Out'

JN1812125088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—One of three swarms of desert locusts that invaded Jordan over the past three days has been wiped out and specialised teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, working in cooperation with other government departments and the Jordanian Armed Forces, are involved in fighting the remaining two swarms, according to Ministry of Agriculture officials.

They were quoted Saturday as saying that ground teams and pesticide spraying aircraft completely eradicated a swarm of locusts that invaded Sahab al-Asmar, a desert area of 400 kilometers away from Amman towards the border with Saudi Arabia.

Eleven anti-locusts teams were still fighting two swarms that crossed from Saudi Arabia on Wednesday in an invasion of Jordanian territory, the first in 30 years.

Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Hamud said Thursday that the invasion posed no serious danger but was useful training for larger locust invasions anticipated in the coming spring.

The minister, who Saturday flew by helicopter on an inspection tour of the affected regions, told a press conference Thursday that efforts to fight the locusts started immediately after the invasion started. Nearly 20 teams have been preparing themselves for the task over the past two months, when reports were first received about locust invasions of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Al-Hamud said that Al-Jafr airport has been equipped for use as a base for pesticide spraying aircraft and that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other international organisations, in addition to Saudi Arabia, have been contacted in order to coordinate anti-locust operations.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salim al-Lawzi said that the swarms of desert locusts have entered Jordan through Al-Mudawwarah region covering a space of 12 square kilometres and that the ground teams assisted by air operations are dealing with the pest.

The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday announced the creation of a special operations room to coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned authorities in the fight against the pest.

It said that it had contacts with border posts and Badia [desert] Police centres to take part in the locust-fighting operations. [passage omitted]

Jordan's last serious locust invasion was in 1958 when the insects devastated crops in the Jordan Valley.

Prince Visits Locust Areas

JN1812110088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 88 p 1

[By Ziyad al-Shillah]

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan Saturday made an inspection tour of regions invaded by desert locusts in southern Jordan and was briefed on measures taken to combat the threat.

Prince Hasan, accompanied by special teams set to fight off dangerous insects, passed directives on methods to be taken in the operations.

Prince Hasan urged continued coordination among various authorities involved in the locust-fighting task on the one hand and teams themselves on the other.

The prince paid tribute to the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Armed Forces and the Jordanian Royal Air Force and the badia [desert] police who are taking charge of the operations.

Prince Hasan was accompanied on the tour by Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Humud and other officials.

The minister said earlier that more efforts and speedy action were needed to eradicate the swarms of locusts that are already in Jordan and further swarms that could come from Saudi Arabia, which now abounds with locusts that invaded the country from Africa.

The present operations, the minister said, pave the way for more strenuous efforts to be made to combat more dangerous invasions expected in spring.

He said Jordan was in need of more equipment and special vehicles to operate in desert terrain, communications equipment, and pesticides. He urged Arab and friendly states and international organisations, including the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, to extend help to Jordan to assist in its efforts.

So far, the minister noted, said area of 30 square kilometres in southern Jordan is covered with locusts and teams are hard at work to eliminate the pest.

Agriculture Minister Seeks Aid

JN1812160388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Humud today met with representatives of foreign embassies, international organizations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the German development agency in Jordan. He reviewed the invasion of desert locusts Jordan is currently experiencing and the efforts to combat it. He said: We still have to to get all of the necessary equipment we need to combat this dangerous insect because fighting it is a joint international responsibility in view of the dangers it poses to food security.

The agriculture minister urged coordination of efforts and cooperation between Arab and international bodies to combat this dangerous insect, provide assistance, and contribute to enhancing Jordan's efforts to confront and remove its dangers before it spreads to some neighboring Arab countries.

Ground Teams Continue Fight

JN2112105088 Amman JORDAN TIMES IN English 21 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—The Jeddah-based anti-locust centre has reported that large swarms of desert locusts invaded Al-Jawf, Tabuk, Jizan and Imleeh in Saudi Arabia and that other swarms reached the Riyadh region to the east.

The information was sent in a telephone [as published] to Dr. Salim al-Lawzi, secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture which as been spearheading efforts to eliminate locusts that invaded Jordan last week.

According to the telepone message, the locusts could be fanning east-ward towards Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, and that operations to fight off the dangerous insects were continuing.

Al-Lawzi said that Jordanian ground teams were still carrying on the fight against the swarms that entered Jordanian territory and that air surveillance was being maintained along the border with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Lawzi said that new swarms of desert locusts have been spotted at Wadi Gharamil, Umm Zaqqouh, Ouja and Khasba in the south eastern regions of the Kingdom, and that ground teams Tuesday embarked on a campaign to eliminate the pests.

Locusts were first reported to have invaded Jordan last Wednesday; and the Ministry of Agriculture said that 20 teams supplied with special equipment and pesticides were at work combatting the insects.

The minister of agriculture issued appeals to world organisations and friendly nations to extend assistance to Jordan in order to help it carry out the task of eliminating the dangerous insects.

Only Kuwait and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have already responded, with the former supplying Jordan with two tonnes of pesticides and the latter donating $500,000 towards bolstering the Kingdom's current endeavour.

Red Cross Suspends Operations Due to Threats

NC2112095888 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Larnaca, Cyprus, Dec 21 (AFP)—Eleven delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross left here for Geneva on Wednesday after being withdrawn from Lebanon, correspondents reported.

"We feel disappointed and we expect to go back," Francis Junot, deputy head of the delegation, said before boarding a regularly scheduled Swiss Air flight.

The 11 took the boat from Lebanon to Cyprus on Tuesday.

The ICRC decided to pull out of Lebanon after learning of "serious threats" against the lives of its delegates there, a spokesman said Tuesday at the commitee's Geneva headquarters.

ICRC delegate Peter Winkler, 32, was abducted in southern Lebanon on November 17. He was freed last Friday near Sidon and returned to Switzerland on Sunday.

Three of the committee's 17-member team in Lebanon left on Monday, with the remaining three expected to leave by boat later Wednesday.

Mr. Junot, who has had five assignments in Lebanon since 1981, said the ICRC had been assisting those detained in the south of the country, we well as refugees.

'Awn Regrets ICRC Decision

NC2112113488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has expressed regrets over the decision by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to immediately halt its operations in Lebanon and to withdraw its delegates.

In this regard he denounced the fact that the hand of terrorism has reached institutions which serve humanity without discrimination, paricularly in Lebanon, where the ICRC had played a major role in helping those affected by the war.

Gen 'Awn has directed Ambassador Salim Naffa', Lebanon's UN delegate in Geneva, to hold the necessary contacts with the ICRC to find out the real reasons behind the decision and to exert efforts to have it reversed.

PFLP-GC Calls for Destroying U.S. Interests

NC2112091288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The first world conference for supporting the Islamic uprising in Palestine has held two sessions at the Carlton Hotel. Several religious, political, and social dignitaries and leaders attended the sessions. [passage omitted]

The evening session, which began at 1400 yesterday, was opened by Mujahid Ahmad Muhanna, who was expelled [from the occupied territories] and who emphasized in a speech that the torch of Jihad has not been extinguished, contrary to the belief of the defeated leaders of the PNC. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, attacked the traitorous stand taken by the Palestinian leaders who recognized Israel's right to exist on four-fifths of Palestinian territory. Jibril asked: By what right do these atheists say that Palestine belongs to the Jews?

Brother Jibril stressed that the Palestinian cause is the cause of all Muslims throughout the world.

On how to support the uprising, Jibril said: We support it when we destroy America's interests in the region. [passage omitted]

Further on Jibril Statement

NC2112093888 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The first world conference for supporting the Islamic uprising in Palestine will conclude its work today. The conference, which was convened at the invitation of the Islamic ulema grouping, commenced its meetings in the Carlton Hotel in West Beirut yesterday morning.

It is being attended by Shaykhs Sa'id Sha'ban, Ahmad al-Zayn, Mahir Hammud, Na'im Qasim, and Muharram al-'Arifi; an Iranian Embassy delegation; a Hizballah delegation led by Ibrahim al-Amin; a PNSF delegation; a Fatah Movement delegation led by Fatah Command Secretary Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah]; a PFLP-GC delegation led by Secretary General Ahmad Jibril; a Fatah Revolutionary Council delegation led by Mansur Hamdan; as well as other Lebanese and Palestinian political, cultural, and spiritual figures and movements and delegations from various countries in the Islamic world. The morning session yesterday was chaired by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic ulema grouping, Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn described the Palestine cause as an Islamic cause that concerns all Muslims, and not only Arabs. It is an international cause of concern for all the oppressed on earth. He noted that Israel has not defeated the Muslim people in Palestine in any battle, but has

defeated some of the ruling reactionary regimes. Shaykh al-Zayn stressed: Islam was not defeated by the Israeli enemy in 1967, but the political ideas that led to it.

Shaykh al-Zayn said that the uprising in Palestine constitutes an extension of the resistance in southern Lebanon. He noted that no leader, party, international or Arab side has the right to impose recognition of Israel's existence and security, because Palestine is the cause of all the Arabs and Muslims, nor do they have the right to concede 1 inch of Palestine under any slogan. [passage omitted]

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic Jihad Organization [munazzamat al-jihad al-islamiyah], Ziyad al-Khali, who was deported from occupied Palestine, said: No one has the right to recognize the UN resolutions, which are all unjust and illegitimate. He stressed the Islamic Jihad plan to continue the confrontation until our people's glory and victory is acheived under the banner of Islam.

Speaking on behalf of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, Mansur Hamdan called for safeguarding and strengthening the revolution forces in Palestine and for establishing a unified national fighting front to escalate the armed struggle until all of Palestine is liberated. He also called for the establishment of committees in all the Arab states to support the uprising, to increase popular mobilization to escalate the armed struggle, and to end the capitulationist and treasonous mentality.

In the evening session, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, addressed the conference. He described as treason the recognition of the existence of Israel over the land of Palestine and the advancement of the idea of normalization of relations with it. He asked: Is Palestine a piece of land which 'Arafat can sell to the Jews? Is Palestine a commodity or bazaar? He said: Palestine is the land of our ancestors.

Jibril noted that Al-Sadat had exploited the blood of the Egyptians and said yes to peace, recognition, negotiations, and Palestine to the Israelis. He explained that after the Balfour Declaration, or 70 years after the struggle of the Palestinian people, a Palestinian leadership is exploiting the blood of the Palestinians, Muslims, and Arabs and exploiting the blood of the uprising. He warned that 'Arafat is making the crossing just as Al-Sadat made the crossing.

Jibril said: I was a colleague of 'Arafat at the time the Palestinian revolution broke out, and even before that. Within a few months I was convinced that he was playing this role, which reached the point of recognizing the Zionist enemy. Jibril explained that the Arab rulers are singing the praises of 'Arafat, and 'Arafat is singing their praises. The world is praising 'Arafat as the hero of peace. 'Arafat had read the text of the statement which Shultz gave him in Stockholm [as heard] in English. And someone comes after this to describe this development as a triumph.

He added: They stripped the revolution of its Islamic and Arabic aspects and described it as an independent Palestinian decision. Jibril continued: The independent decision is a plot to keep the Palestinian cause naked and Yasir 'Arafat's possession. He asked: Who has protected Husni Mubarak and the other regimes from falling as a result of the uprising? It is Yasir 'Arafat, who has been visiting Cairo and Amman and meeting with Husni Mubarak before the eyes of the good-hearted Egyptian people. The situation is grave, he said, and this is the cause of the Muslims. America and Israel, he explained, will not provide a solution. The Americans are satisfied, particularly after the Islamic revolution in Iran was hit.

Jibril strongly criticized the Soviet Union's position, stressing that the Soviet Union has facilitated the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews to Palestine to build settlements in the occupied territories. He said that while Soviet Jews have the right to return, the Soviet Union advised at the Algiers conference that the inclusion of the right of return in the statement would not benefit us.

Jibril strongly attacked PFLP Secretary General George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and said they have no connection with the Palestinian issue. They receive orders from Moscow, like 'Arafat receives orders. He said: Why shouldn't I fight through my religion at the same time Begin [reference to former Israeli Likud leader Menahem Begin] is fighting through his religion. Is the falsified Torah better than the Koran?

He explained that following its defeat in the [name indistinct] attack against the Zionist army camp which is called "hero" and its defeat in the face of the uprising, the enemy tried to regain its respect by attacking our positions in Al-Na'imah. But the enemy failed to enter any of our positions. From the very beginning, our fighters chased the enemy soldiers, who were forced to use the most modern weapons to ensure their withdrawal.

He said: While it is not a shame to lose a battle, it is an absolute shame to surrender as the rulers, led by Yasir 'Arafat, have.

The last speaker was Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, who welcomed Ahmad Jibril and praised his position. He said: When 'Arafat renounced terrorism, he renounced struggle. He pointed out that at the beginning 'Arafat simultaneously raised the rifle and the olive branch to bargain over the rifle. But, he finally threw the rifle and the olive branch, and raised his hands in surrender.

Sha'ban said that the march of the liberation of Palestine has begun. He added: We regard this gathering as the start of an Islamic unity among all the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sha'ban continued: We do not want Lebanon or Syria to be independent states. What we want is to be independent from America. He added that Islam unifies all the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Fatah To Allow Family To Visit French Hostages

NC2012191088 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 20 (AFP)—Palestinian extremists holding a Frenchwoman and her three children hostage in Lebanon said here Tuesday they would allow the woman's relatives to visit her at Christmas.

"We heard through the media that some of Jacqueline Valente's relatives are coming to Lebanon. We will receive them if they ask us," said a spokesman for the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC).

Mrs. Valente is among a group of nine French and Belgian hostages held by the FRC, which seized their yacht Silco in the eastern Mediterranean 13 months ago.

Mrs. Valente's mother and her brother-in-law, Paul Metral, announced last week that they would travel to Beirut on December 24 to pass Christmas close to the hostages.

The FRC spokesman reiterated that his group planned to release Mrs. Valente's two girls—six-year-old Marie-Laure and seven-year-old Virginie—but he did not say when. Mrs. Valente has given birth to a third child in captivity.

The FRC is headed by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and backed by Libya and Syria. The group has accused its captives of being Israeli agents.

Asked about the FRC's demands to free the hostages, the spokesman replied that "the humanitarian and political conditions for their release have not changed," but gave no further details.

Fourteen other foreigners are missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon.

East Beirut Deputies Meet in Mansur Palace

NC2012122888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The parliamentary follow-up committee, composed of Deputy Speaker Dr Albert Mukhaybir and Deputies George Sa'adah, Auguste Bakhus, 'Abduh 'Uwaydat, and Rafiq Shain, who reside in East Beirut, has been able, following the recent relaxation, to reach Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies building] to hold talks on what can be achieved in the wake of the failure of initiatives by spiritual elders and foreign states. The committee's meeting ended at 1145.

Dr Mukhaybir made a statement in which he said: Today we came home, after a 3-month absence. I hope that our return will signify the return of all displaced people to their homes. I saw life brought back to Mansur Palace. My colleagues and I have felt that contact has been restored among all the deputies. We very much hope that our persistent efforts to achieve speedy solutions will bear fruit in the form of the election of a new president.

Deputy Dr George Sa'adah said: It is natural for us to return to the Chamber of Deputies. We hope that good results will be achieved as a result of our return. Perhaps the Chamber of Deputies will resume its activities and all the deputies will meet in the building which was originally designated for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

NC2012140188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers convlened under the chairmanship of Dr Salim al-Huss at Government House today. Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and Ministers Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and 'Adil 'Usayran attended the meeting, while Staff Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, Army commander, attended part of the meeting.

On leaving the meeting, Brig Gen al-Khatib announced that the Council of Ministers had approved promotions for the Army officers which the Army Command had earlier approved. He added that the details of the promotions will be made public at the end of the cabinet meeting.

Following the meeting, Hisham al-Sha'ar, secretary general of the Council of Ministers, said that the Council had reviewed the political situation in the country and studied the promotions of Army and security forces officers. He said that the ministers had signed these promotions in accordance with Article 62 of the Constitution. Al-Sha'ar added that the Council of Ministers also had reviewed other items on its agenda.

For his part Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri declared that, unless Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is represented at the Arab ministerial council meeting, any resolution adopted by that council would not be binding on us at all. He added that the Army promotions, which had been approved, included all those individuals concerned irrespective of which areas they come from and to which sects and sectors they belonged. He said that the Council of Ministers had examined the Israeli act of piracy of kidnapping four citizens, two of whom were subsequently released. He recalled that Lebanon had submitted a complaint on this matter to the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Promotes Al-Khatib

NC2112074988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The promotion of Army and security forces officers, which the cabinet approved yesterday, involved 1,342 Army officers, including Army Commander Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, who was promoted to the rank of major general. The promotions are effective retroactively from 1 January 1986. The promotions also involve 169 Internal Security Forces officers, and are applicable for the years 1986, 1987, and 1988.

Meanwhile, officers who were accused of failing in their duties in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, such as former intelligence chief Colonel Simon Qassis, Col Michel Mu'ayki, and Col Hanna Sulaylati, were not promoted.

Ja'ja' Discusses Presidential Election Outlook

PM2012104888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with Lebanese Forces leader Samir Ja'ja' by Ghassan Shirbil in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Shirbil] What stage has been reached in the efforts to hold the presidential elections, especially with regard to the patriarch's [Sufayr's] initiative?

[Ja'ja'] The past 3 months have proved that most of the main Lebanese factions want the presidential elections to be held. The best proof of this is the patriarch's initiative, which has enjoyed the backing of influential Arab parties as well as the Western states represented by the United States. It has also enjoyed the support of Christians and most Muslims in Lebanon. But regrettably the patriarch's initiative has met with a kind of rejection from Syria, though this rejection was cleverly expressed. Syria wants elections on its own terms.

[Shirbil] If the elections are postponed, is there any intention of expanding General 'Awn's government?

[Ja'ja'] We insist that the elections be held. But we want free elections that will open the way to a solution and express the Lebanese people's desire to leave the disputes behind them. This obviously requires that a sector of the Lebanese whose will has been suppressed be allowed to express their decision. At the same time we are anxious that no one impose unequitable elections on us.

On this basis, we believe that Gen 'Awn's government must be expanded in order to stabilize the political situation and administer public affairs. We are for the expansion of this government to strengthen the national will. If this happens, then the presidential elections will be imminent.

[Shirbil] But expanding the government could perpetuate the existence of both governments and probably destroy the elections idea.

[Ja'ja'] I believe the opposite would happen, because strengthening the Lebanese people's will would increase Arab and international pressures to ensure the holding of presidential elections reflecting the will of all Lebanese.

[Shirbil] Do you sense that Gen 'Awn agrees with this aim?

[Ja'ja'] I sense that Gen 'Awn interprets the situation in the same way, and I believe that the government's expansion is imminent.

[Shirbil] Will you personally participate in the government and, if so, what form will your participation take?

[Ja'ja'] Names have not been yet decided. What is important is to strengthen the Lebanese will, resolve the people's daily problems, and increase the elections' chances of being held in order to secure a comprehensive solution.

[Shirbil] Frankly some people accuse you of playing a clever political game based on the idea of leaving the patriarch and 'Awn to make their moves, so that if they succeed you succeed with them, and if they fail, you strengthen your control on the ground. What is your reply?

[Ja'ja'] Lebanon's interests demand that the presidential elections be held, and a candidate enjoying the Lebanese people's confidence be elected. We have responded to the general desire and delegated the patriarch. You can ask him about our position. It is in our national interest that the patriarch's initiative succeed. It is also in our interest that Gen 'Awn's government succeed in raising the Lebanese issue and work toward restoring sovereignty over Lebanese territory.

A great deal of ill will is apparent in this connection. If we are in the front line we are accused of monopolizing the decisionmaking. If we allow others to work they say we are playing a game. We are a leading party. We are not linked to a particular candidate. Our political moves are determined according to the requirements of Lebanese interests and developments. We offer an outstretched hand to all Lebanese parties and maintain constant contacts with some of them, albeit via mediation because of the situation in their areas.

[Shirbil] Have you given up all hope of reaching an inter-Lebanese solution involving the Lebanese Forces?

[Ja'ja'] I have not given up hope at all. I have confidence in the Lebanese people's ability to hold a dialogue and reach an understanding, provided there are no pressures and obstacles.

[Shirbil] But most forces refuse to hold a dialogue with you.

[Ja'ja'] I have just said that there are pressures which are not easy to confront, probably because conditions are unsuitable for this task at the moment.

[Shirbil] In the past you wanted to hold a dialogue with Minister Walid Junblatt. Why has this desire for dialogue been replaced by an escalation?

[Ja'ja'] I think the problem has to do with the character of Mr Junblatt himself as well as his contradicting attitudes. No one knows what Junblatt wants. I am amazed by his attitude, especially since the Druze have always adhered to their virtues. The general interest prompts us to abandon grudges, because they cannot form the basis of our stances.

[Shirbil] It has been reported that there is a reconciliation plan between you and former President Amin al-Jumayyil.

[Ja'ja'] This matter has not been broached, and I find no justification for it. It will take many years before the enormous damages he caused over 6 years can be eliminated.

[Shirbil] It is noted that the Lebanese Forces have intensified their contacts with the Arab states over the past 2 years. What have these contacts achieved?

[Ja'ja'] There have been considerable contacts which, together with sincere Arab efforts, have resulted in the call for an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Contacts are being made via envoys and friends. The Arab states back Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and the demand for all foreign armies to withdraw from Lebanon. The moderate Arab role is both essential and desired.

[Shirbil] What about your relations with Iraq?

[Ja'ja'] Excellent.

[Shirbil] And with the PLO?

[Ja'ja'] At the lowest level.

[Shirbil] Do you fear a military action in the event of the government's being expanded?

[Ja'ja'] I doubt whether this would happen, because of the internal balance of power as well as regional and international factors.

[Shirbil] But Washington opposes the expansion of the military government or Al-Huss' government.

[Ja'ja'] I believe our decisions must be guided by Lebanese interests. Undoubtedly every official must take regional circumstances into account. But this does not mean in the least that others dictate our affairs. We Lebanese must determine our own destiny.

[Shirbil] It has been reported that endeavors are being made to reconcile Syria and the influential forces in the eastern area. Would you be willing to hold a dialogue if that is achieved?

[Ja'ja'] We are completely and unconditionally ready to hold a dialogue. We have our own opinions and convictions and are ready to hold a dialogue with all parties in order to extricate ourselves from the present situation.

Ja'ja' Says Forces Prepared To Talk With Syria

NC2012183888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has declared that the demand for political reforms at present is a Syrian attempt to confuse world public opinion and divert attention from the real problem in Lebanon, namely Syria's occupation of Lebanon. He also stressed that although Damascus has rejected and aborted the Maronite patriarch's initiative, any discussion concerning the election of a new president still requires a resumption of the dialogue with Patriarch Sfayr.

In an interview to be published in the newspaper AL-DIYAR tomorrow, Dr Ja'ja' stressed that the Lebanese Forces are prepared for a dialogue with everyone, including Syria, but within the framework of the well-known firm Lebanese and Christian principles. He described the Lebanese Forces' relationship with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn as excellent.

He said that this is due to the fact that Gen 'Awn is the only official in 15 years to hold a legal and constitutional post and at the same time have the far-sightedness, clear vision, and daring to handle the Lebanese crisis realistically and seriously.

Dr Ja'ja' revealed that this relationship can be strengthened through the expansion of the government, but he indicated that no final decision has yet been made in this regard although this subject is currently under discussion.

Dr Ja'ja' reiterated that the 1943 formula is null and void and that any dialogue or talk about reform requires the presence of two parties. Regrettably, he said, in Lebanon at present there is only one party represented by the free areas, which represent all free Lebanese.

Dr Ja'ja' stressed that he rejects the discussion of a formula for a new Lebanon with Syria, expressing the belief that Damascus accepts two kinds of people in Lebanon—either the agent or the enemy.

Further on Interview

NC2112101188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Dr Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, has reacted to the recent proposals made by Husayn al-Husayni, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Ja'ja' regretted the fact that Al-Husayni has stooped so low, saying that he rightly deserves the title of Syria's number one legitimate agent in Lebanon. He added: What is surprising is that Al-Husayni now talks about reform although we all know that he continues to adhere to the 1943 formula.

In an interview with the AL-DIYAR newspaper Ja'ja' says: We are against all these proposals, which we believe disregard the peoples' minds and are a bad joke. The following is required: First, the presidential elections must be held and, second, a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies must then be elected to keep Al-Husayni out. After this takes place we must discuss the question of the presence of the Syrian and all armies in Lebanon. The question of reforms will come last, and it will be discussed among the Lebanese themselves.

Dr Ja'ja' emphasized that the voices which are being raised on the opposite side will inevitably tone down after the Syrians leave Lebanon. He said: These voices are Syrian first and last. They will cease when their manipulators stop instigating them. Al-Husayni will fall then, Al-Huss will return to his senses, and Junblatt will tone down his exaggerations and become sensible. Ja'ja' recalled Junblatt's frequent calls to the Christians to return to the mountain area, saying that Junblatt himself aborted these calls.

He reiterated that the bulldozers of the Public Works Ministry demolished all the Christian churches and houses in the mountain area. He said: Walid Junblatt is one of the few who succeeded in spreading lies in such a manner.

'Unidentified' Planes Fly Over Al-Biqa', Beirut

NC2012195188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Unidentified planes carried out intensive flights over Al-Biqa', Beirut, and Kasrawan between 2030 and 2100 this evening.

Israeli Planes Fly Over South

NC2112092388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the South and the Al-Shuf coast this morning.

Al-Asad Receives Iraqi Opposition Figure

JN1912170488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] At 1100 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iraq, and his delegation.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Arabsat General Assembly Members

JN2012181888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received at 1330 today Dr 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, Saudi minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph; Brahim Khouaja, Tunisian minister of communications; and Mubarak al-Shamikh, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, who are members of the ministerial committee stemming from the Arabsat General Assembly.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Murad Quwatli, Syrian minister of communications. The meeting was also attended by Eng Shahid Isma'il, director general of the Jordanian Telecommunications Corporation; and Eng Makram 'Ubayd, director general of the General Telecommunications Corporation [not further identified].

During the meeting, talks centered on the outcome of the meetings of the ministerial committee as well as the recommendations issued to guarantee the continuation of joint Arab action. It also discussed the possibility of obtaining the maximum benefit from Arabsat's services in communications among the Arab homeland's countries.

SANA Reports Iraqi Human Rights Violations

JN1812172788 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Paris, 18 Dec (Agencies)—The Iraqi human rights organization has appealed to the recent human rights conference in Paris to intervene to end the practices of the ruling clique in Iraq—a clique that violates the simplest rights of Iraqi citizens.

In a recent message to the conference, the organization pointed to criminal acts such as repression, deportation, execution, assassination, surveillance, and bombardment with chemical weapons that the Saddam Husayn regime uses against Iraqi citizens. The organization said the Iraqi regime has deported thousands of Iraqis and executed many others without trial. Had trials in such cases been held, they would have been summary. The Iraqi regime has also assassinated the most prominent Iraqi national personalities inside and oustside Iraq such as Al-Tahir Abu Raghif, who was assassinated in a car accident in Basra; Iraqi writer Jawad 'Abd al-Rasul al-'Abbadi, who was assassinated in Al-Kazimiyah; 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Nayif, who was assassinated in London; Mahdi al-Hakim, who was assassinated in Sudan; and other Iraqis.

The organization added that the Iraqi regime has used chemical weapons against citizens in northern Iraq and continues to detain citizens. This regime also prevents citizens from traveling, dismisses them from public posts, and places citizens under surveillance inside and outside Iraq. It also arrests, tortures, and executes women and children.

In its message, the organization demanded that the Iraqi regime be condemned for violating the articles of the world charter on human rights and that appropriate steps be taken to make this regime yield to international law and the charters and norms pertaining to human rights.

Within this context, the Iraqi national forces affirmed in a statement that the Iraqi regime has recently launched a collective liquidation campaign against Iraqi citizens on the pretext of their affiliation with the Iraqi opposition factions. The statement said the ruling clique in Iraq has recently executed by firing squad hundreds of citizens in Baghdad, Dahuk, Mosul, Irbil, and in the Al-Hadr District of Ninawah Governorate after the amnesty decision had been issued and these citizens had surrendered to the ruling Iraqi regime.

The statement pointed to the Iraqi national forces' confrontation of the savage, ugly practices of the Iraqi regime. These forces opened fire on one of the companions of the fascist 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, cousin of the butcher Saddam, who used to execute Iraqi strugglers. The statement added that elements of the Iraqi national forces have detonated a bomb under a ceremonial rostrum in the subdistrict of Sambal [placename as received] in Dahuk Governorate. They also threw a hand grenade at a patrol of the regime's police in the Al-Karamah quarter in Mosul and threw another hand grenade at the car of an Iraqi regime henchman. These operations resulted in killing 8 henchmen of the Iraqi regime and wounding 26 others.

Afghanistan

Council Approves Documents on Soviet Aid

LD2112064388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 21 Dec 88

[TExt] Kabul, Dec. 20, BAKHTAR—The session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan was held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq.

The session studied and discussed on the documents concerning the talks held in Sept 1988 between the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR Government. Recently, the representatives of the USSR Foreign Relations Ministry had presented their accords on the proposals of the Afghan side for the latter's consideration.

Accordingly, the session approved the following documents:

1- Agreement on the delivery of gratis aid goods to the Afghan side for the year 1989. This consists of kerosene, diesel, chemical fertilizer, sowing seeds, wheat, sugar and other item at a worth of 120 million roubles. The transportation costs of the goods to Hairatan [placename as received]-Towraghondi ports are borne by the Soviet side.

2- Protocol on the balance of clearing accounts between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Based on this protocol, the Soviet Union opens a letter of credit on foreign exchange up to two hundred million roubles for balancing the clearing accounts between the two countries.

3- Protocol on moratorium of matured debts. Under this protocol, the Soviet Union agrees to suspend the debt repayment of the principal and interest of state credits earlier used and is to be met in 1989 for another ten years.

4- Protocol on exchange of goods on the basis of which the Soviet Union will send to the Afghan side goods such as machinery, petrol, diesel, chemical fertilizer, wheat, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and the Afghan side exports to the Soviet Union the traditional agricultural products.

5- The exchange document between Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan and Ministry of USSR Foreign Economic Relations on the delivery of goods between Afghan companies and private entrepreneurs and the Soviet enterprises. Following this document, the Soviet enterprises will send the exportable goods to the Afghan private companies and entrepreneurs and reciprocally, the Afghan private enterprises send domestic products to the relative Soviet enterprises.

6- The exchange document on the extension of the delivery term of the remaining amount of gratis aids goods to Afghanistan.

7- the exchange document on the extension of the validity term for the rehabilitation and repair of Jalalabad irrigation complex.

8- Exchange letter on the delivery of consumer goods amounting to 17 million roubles. On the basis of this document, the Soviet side will assist the Afghan side with petrol at a worth of 13.2 million roubles and sugar at a worth of 3.8 million roubles for the year 1989.

Similarly, at the proposal of the Ministry of Public Health, the education term at Kabul Medical Institute has been raised to seven years including P.C.B. [expansion unknown] class.

Vice President Comments on Coalition Government

BK2112041688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 21 Dec 88

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 21 (AFP)—The Afghan Government will insist that any coalition government negotiated by the Soviet Union and the Afghan resistance must include the communist party, Vice President 'Abdulhamid Mohtat said here.

"The PDPA (ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) is the main and prominent force in our society... It will play an important, basic and historic role in a broad-based national coalition government," Mr Mohtat said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Tuesday.

He was answering questions about negotiations between the seven-party mujahidin resistance alliance and Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov, who is also first deputy foreign minister.

To date the government in Kabul has been excluded from the talks.

Previous Afghan Government statements, including one by President Najibullah after the first round of Soviet-mujahidin talks in Saudi Arabia which ended December 5, have said that all groups with substantial support among the Afghan people should be represented in a coalition government.

The U.S.- and Pakistan-backed mujahidin have in the past rejected any PDPA role, saying that it is a puppet of the Soviet Union, and it has rejected direct talks with the Najibullah government for the same reason.

Both Western and Eastern bloc diplomats here have noted several comments in the Soviet press in the past two months critical of the PDPA, with many taking them as hints that the PDPA may not be included in a coalition government.

"Of course, without any doubt the PDPA must be included," Mr Mohtat said. "It would not be realistic to do otherwise. It has been in existence as a party for 24 years and struggling for 10 years, a system has been created, a complete system."

Mr Mohtat also dismissed as "not completely coinciding with existing realities," reports here and abroad that Moscow had leapfrogged over the government in its haste to negotiate some kind of coalition before the scheduled completion of a pullout of Soviet troops due by February 15.

The Soviet-Mujahidin negotiations, scheduled to resume soon in neighbouring Pakistan, where the seven-party alliance is based, had, he said, "the prior agreement" of the Najibullah government.

"We are hopeful that time won't run out before results are achieved," he added, in a reference to the Soviet troop withdrawal under the April 14 Geneva peace accords on Afghanistan.

Mr Mohtat also stressed that a ceasefire would be an essential precondition if any hopes for an end to the nine-year war between the mujahidin and the Soviet-backed government of Mr Najibullah were to be realised.

"We have proposed demilitarization.... But this is a very, very complicated and sophisticated question, and could only be solved with the participation of all national forces... A ceasefire must come first," he said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal on December 7 that a ceasefire go into effect January 1 throughout Afghanistan has been rejected by the mujahidin, Pakistan and the United States as impractical and unenforceable.

In Kabul, where a United Nations team is monitoring the Soviet withdrawal that started in May, a grim joke making the rounds of diplomatic circles is that "there are not enougn blue helmets (United Nations peace-keeping troops) in the world" to monitor such a ceasefire.

"The logic of peace must win over the logic of war," Mr Mohtat said, commenting on the mujahidin rejection of the ceasefire proposal. "Everyone wants peace. The people have suffered long enough."

He also said that his government hoped to join the Soviet-mujahidin negotiations at a later stage.

Calling the coming weeks "very sensitive days" for his country, he said a ceasefire must first go into effect followed by establishment of a broad-based government, and added that the United States could play an important role in persuading the mujahidin to accept a coalition with his government.

"We hope that the Government of the United States, as a great power and as a guarantor of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan... Will respect its pledges, will persuade the opposition (mujahidin) to take a positive path," he said.

2d Round of Mujahidin-Soviet Talks Delayed

BK2112110588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 21 (AFP)—The second round of direct talks between the Soviet Union and the Afghan resistance have been delayed for several days, Pakistani Foreign Office officials and resistance sources said Wednesday.

The discussions, which had been expected to resume here this week, had been put off for several days because mujahidin leaders had experienced last-minute difficulties in finalising the agenda for the talks, they said.

Afghan rebel alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, who led the mujahidin delegation at the first round of talks in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, this month, said Sunday that the alliance's supreme council would finalise the agenda soon.

But leaders of several members of the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance were either abroad or had failed to reach Peshawar, where some members of the Supreme Council had been discussing the agenda, a rebel leader said.

"The supreme council must endorse the agenda as the next round would be very important," he said.

The talks were to focus on formation of a broad-based government in Kabul and an exchange of Soviet prisoners for mujahiin guerrillas captured by Afghan and Soviet forces during the nine-year conflict.

A Soviet offer for a ceasefire effective from January 1 was also to have figured in the talks.

A Foreign Office spokesman here did not rule out the possibility of talks later this month. Pakistan is hosting a summit meeting of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) later this month.

The spokesman said the Soviet-Afghan talks could be held before or after the December 29 SAARC summit, whatever the parties decide.

Replying to a question about what would happen to the Soviet ceasefire proposal if the talks are delayed beyond this month, he noted that the mujahiin have already rejected the offer.

But "everything will fall in place once a broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people was set up," he said.

The rebels have also refused a Soviet proposal to enter into a coalition with the ruling Afghan Communist Party.

Diplomatic sources here said meanwhile that Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was planning to visit Tehran to hold talks on resulving the Afghan problem with Iran-based resistance leaders.

Soviet troops who entered Afghanistan in December 1979 are to leave the country by February 15 under the terms of an agreement signed in Geneva in April.

'Deep Differences' Among Opposition Groups

LD2112062988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 20, BAKHTAR—Peshawar-based representatives of Afghan opposition groups held a meeting there in order to discuss the next round of their talks with the Soviet Union.

Reports reaching here say that the representatives of opposition group have not yet decided on their next round of talks. At this gathering, four ringleaders of the group have not personally participated in the meeting and have sufficed to send their deputies.

Another topic of the agenda was the creation of an "all-out council" by the opposition groups. The existence of deep conflicts among them hampered the making of any decision.

Raddani, the present speaker of the opposition "seven-alliance" in a press conference confessed that every group has his own view on the creation of such a council deeply differing with the views of other groups.

Even, there exists deep differences between the fundamentalist groups of Gulbuddin and Yunus Khales on the nature of the formation of such a council. Gulbuddin's group is in favour of exerting pressure on other groups and intends to impose their domination on others in the refugees camps through elections whereas Yunus Khales group is advocating to appoint their representatives.

Successes Against Government Targets Reported

Attack on Qandahar Airport

BK2012124788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas launched a rocket attack on the airport in the southern province of Qandahar last week, killing 13 soldiers and destroying three jets and four tanks, rebel sources said here Tuesday.

The sources said that mujahidin rebels launched the attack early Saturday. Three jet planes and four tanks were destroyed on the tarmac and 13 Afghan soldiers were killed in the attack, the sources said.

Afghan forces retaliated shelling rebel position and killing two mujahidin and three civilians, the sources added.

The sources said the rebels shot down a Soviet-made MiG-27 with an anti-aircraft Stinger missile in the Dahrawad [placename as received] sub-division of central Oruzgan Province Friday.

20 Soldiers Killed in Baghlan

BK2112062288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly attacked (Garigaon) Village near Baghlan City killing over 20 Kabul regime soldiers and capturing 27 others. The mujahidin also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition in this operation. Last week, the mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime helicopter in the Paghman area.

Protest Note No 156 Sent to UNGOMAP

LD2012111888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 19, BAKHTAR—The one hundred fifty-sixth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva Accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) today.

In the notice strict information on fourteen instances of violations by Pakistani side of Geneva Accords mainly on sending caravans of arms and ammunition from its territory to the extremist groups in Afghanistan, date, place and other specifications of violations are given.

It asks UNGOMAP to assess the violations and convey results of its findings to the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general immediately.

India

Parliament Passes Two Bills on Electoral Reforms

BK2012144388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Parliament has passed the two major legislations to bring about sweeping changes in the electoral system. The Rajya Sabha today unanimously adopted the Constitution 62d Amendment Bill to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years. Two hundred and one members voted in favor and none against.

The house later passed by voice vote the Representation of the People's Amendment Bill, which provides for changes in the electoral system like introduction of electronic voting machine, penal provisions for booth capturing and rigging, and registration of political parties. Both the bills were passed by the Lok Sabha last Thursday [15 December]

Earlier, replying to the discussion on both the bills in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for law and justice, Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, ruled out state funding of elections.

Visiting French Defense Minister Holds Talks
BK2112042488 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The visiting French defense minister, Mr Jean-Pierre Chevenement, called on the defense minister, Mr K.C.Pant, in New Delhi today. The two ministers discussed cooperation in the defense sector. Mr Chevenement and Mr Pant were later assisted by their respective delegations. During the 3-hour meeting, the two sides discussed global and regional security matters. Bilateral cooperation between the defense establishments and industrial units of the two countries also figured. Ideas on financial and other arrangements that could be of mutual benefit were exchanged.

A press release by the External Affairs Ministry described the talks as positive.

Commentary Analyzes Future of Pakistani Relations
BK1612121188 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Commentary by Virendra Mohan: "New Trends in Indo-Pakistan Relations"]

[Text] There is a widely held view in India that with the return of a democratically elected government in Pakistan, relations between the two neighbors are bound to improve. The people and the Government of India have welcomed the installation of Ms Benazir Bhutto as the new prime minister of Pakistan and her positive assertions to mend fences with India.

Though there are all positive signs of the opening up of a new era of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, there is also a feeling that the damage done to Indo-Pak relations by 11 years of military rule would require a very deliberate and enormous effort on the part of Islamabad to remove the mistrust and hostility of the past. During General Ziaul Haq's rule the military dictatorship had distanced itself from the Simla Agreement, which provided a framework for resolving all outstanding issues between the two countries bilaterally and in a peaceful manner.

As a consequence, several irritants entered into Indo-Pak relations, which reached their unusually lowest ebb in mid-1988. The military rulers in Islamabad attempted to negate the Simla Agreement when General Zia offered a no-war pact and relentlessly pursued a nuclear weapons program. In July 1978, the military rulers stopped bilateral trade with India and the increasing involvement of Pakistan with the extremist activity directed against India further soured relations.

New signs of hope, however, have now arisen. Ms Benazir Bhutto, immediately after her election, categorically stated that the Simla Agreement was more important for resolving various issues, including Kashmir, between the two countries. Her speedy burial of the no-war pact is also seen as another encouraging sign.India's response would be positive and discreet and marked by patience because of the circumstances in which the new Pakistani prime minister is placed. Ms Bhutto would have to tread carefully as the anti-democratic forces, which destabilized Pakistan during the past 4 decades, have not ceased to exist.

Political observers feel that the military bureaucratic junta, which ruled Pakistan till now, may not allow the present civilian government to have an absolutely free hand if it was not in its long-term interest. Ms Bhutto has assured that she would not pursue a nuclear weapons program, but this assurance has to be taken with a pinch of salt. The Army's commitment is to acquire a bomb. Though her statement is welcomed, it remains to be seen whether she will be able to dismantle the Kahuta nuclear plant, where, according to Western reports, Pakistan may be only just a fuse away from putting together a nuclear device.

If Ms Bhutto can stop Pakistan's involvement with Punjab extremists, as she has said that she was against playing the (?Sikh) card, a major irritant in Indo-Pak relations would have been removed paving the way for normalization of relations between the two countries.

Pakistan's political institutions have suffered heavily from the prolonged military rule and her economy is in a shambles because of the grotesquely inflated military budget. If Ms Bhutto has a way with the Army to reduce defense spending in the wake of a new relationship with India, then both countries would be able to divert the much needed fund for developmental purposes. But whether the Army would permit her to trample with their perks and privileges and cut expenditure of acquisition of sophisticated arms remains to be seen.

An analysis of the composition of her cabinet shows that retention of General Yaqub Khan as the foreign minister would imply a tilt toward the United States in the conduct of foreign affairs, especially the Afghan issue. Ms Bhutto has stated that she supported the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. The world community would watch if their words matched deeds.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would be going to Islamabad toward the end of the month to attend the SAARC summit and his talks with Ms Bhutto, whom he has very

warmly felicitated on assumption of her office, would go a long way in lowering tension, building mutual trust and confidence, and establishing cordial relations between the two countries.

Iran

Rafsanjani Interviewed on PLO, Gulf Relations

LD2012115788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent from Austrian television, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, answered various questions.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented on the Palestine issue. He said: In order to completely resolve the Palestinian issue and totally eradicate the Israeli conspiracy, a Palestinian state without Jewish identity must be formed, in which the inhabitants may coexist. Anything else will only produce temporary results, and one day the fire of conflict will be rekindled in Palestine.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Rafsanjani made some remarks in this interview in connection with Iranian relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, in particular Arabestan [Saudi Arabia]. He pointed to the mutual desire for resolving the existing issues, and said: The fundamental issue was the Iran-Iraq war, which does not exist in practice at the moment, and therefore that obstacle has been removed.

The acting commander in chief added: We also have the issue of the hajj in relation to Arabestan. This issue must be resolved to help the two sides reach agreement. We and they both wish to resolve problems pertaining to bilateral relations. In my opinion, in the not too distant future, our relations will be normalized.

This question was asked: What problems must be resolved before establishing calm in the Persian Gulf? The acting commander in chief replied: We do not have any insurmountable problem in the region. Of course, in the early days of the Islamic Revolution, the Ba'thist party of Iraq did have expansionist designs. Now that spirit has been defeated, and considering the damage suffered by that country as well as the pressures brought upon that country by accumulated debts, it is not likely that country again indulged in acts of adventurism.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We did not have expanionist intentions from the beginning, just as our southern neighbors to not have aggressive designs. He stressed that the influence of the United States and the foreigners in the region has caused some problems. The United States intends to interfere in independent policies which are beneficial to the region. It aims to do so by sowing divisions in the region. We urge our southern neighbors not to be influenced by these U.S. attempts and to cooperate with us to resolve existing issues concerning the oil market, maritime laws, and Resolution 598.

Another question asked: How Iran will manage its reconstruction task, and will it will ask Austria for assistance? Mr Rafsanjani said in reply: Considering the large amount of cash ciruclating among the people, at the moment we do not consider it a good idea to concentrate too many affairs in the hands of the state. We all agree that people's abilities and means should be utilized for reconstruction.

The Majles speaker added: The concentration of affairs within the state was a necessity during the war, a necessity that no longer exists. Reconstruction policies have been devised bearing his eminence the imam's guidelines in mind. These policies have been formulated through the cooperation of the Majles, the government, and the people. These policies will soon be announced. He added: Right from the outset of the revolution, our policy has been to establish closer relations with those countries who do not try to exploit economic relations for political gains. Your country is one of those. If your country takes prompt action, it will be able to be more active in the fields of mineral industries, steel, agriculture, and railways in our country.

Red Cross Urged To Facilitate Return of POW's

LD1712123288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Political Commentary]

[Text] Our first political commentary is on the need for new efforts by the Red Cross.

In continuation of efforts by the Islamic Republic to resume the exchange of injured and disabled Iranian and Iraqi POW's, last Thursday evening Foreign Minister Velayati sent a letter to the chairman of the International Committee of Red Cross [ICRC]. After giving details of the violations of understanding regarding the exchange of injured and disabled POW's, he called in his letter for greater ICRC efforts to force Iraq to comply with the contents of the note of understanding regarding the provision of necessary arrangements for the exchange of all injured and disabled POW's.

During the third round of Iran-Iraq discussions on implementing Resolution 598 and following the discussions of the ICRC representatives with the relevant officials from the two countries, it was agreed that in addition to the POW's which are exchanged, necessary information should be provided regarding the rest of the ill or injured POW's who do not wish to return to their countries. On this basis, during three rounds of exchanges, 155 ill and injured Iraqi POW's were returned, and necessary information was provided in connection with other the Iraqi POW's. These details concerned the situation of those POW's who had either sought asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran or who had not been found to be ill or injured by the joint medical commission which has been set up on the basis of the note of understanding.

However, since the very first day of exchange, Iraq has violated the note of understanding by refusing to return 22 ill and injured Iranian POW's without providing any necessary details about those POW's and without providing any logical reasons. Continuing this practice, Iraq has refused to return a total of 67 injured and ill Iranian POW's, while on the basis of the official notes of the ICRC those 67 POW's should have been returned. Additionally, on the basis of the note of understanding, the two countries were obliged to provide the ICRC with a list of the registered ill or injured POW's by 5 December 1988 so that the ICRC could prepare a plan for the exchange of those POW's and so that those POW's could be exchanged by 31 December 1988.

The list of registered ill and injured Iraqi POW's was handed to the ICRC representative in Tehran on the day designated by that committee. However, Iraq did not provide the list of registered Iranian ill and injured POW's, without giving any logical reasons for not doing so, and thus violated the note of understanding for the second time. The repeated violation of the note of understanding on the exchange of ill and injured POW's reveals Iraq's lack of inclination for the speedy exchange of POW's. With the aim of making political gains from the issue of POW's, the Iraqi regime, by not returning the injured Iranian POW's who should have been freed in exchange for the release of Iraqi injured POW's, has halted the exchange of POW's to their own countries.

Therefore, it seems that while asking the Iraqi regime to provide explanations, the Red Cross should guarantee the exchange of those POW's on the basis of the understanding which has been reached. The Islamic Republic has so far demonstrated its desire for the exchange of POW's within the framework of the implementation of Resolution 598. After the end of the recent round of discussions between the two countries in Geneva, which came to an end without any tangible results, the need for more serious steps by the United Nations for a more speedy progress of discussions can be clearly felt.

In addition to the exchange of POW's, the need for thed return of forces to international borders in order to strengthen the cease-fire is absolutely necessary for returning security and stability to the region. Although the contacts of the secretary general and UN officials with the officials of the two countries are still continuing and although officials from various countries stress the need for the speedy implementation of the resolution, progress is nevertheless very slow.

Daily Asks Peace Advocates To Warn Iraq

LD2012193888 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—In a commentary in its Tuesday issue the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said if the next round of peace talks in Geneva is to bear any fruit the world nations would have to act more responsibly and warn Iraq of the consequences of its hampering of the talks. It commented that Iraq advocates only a peace formula which will ensure it supremacy over others at the Persian Gulf and assure it a political and military lead over Iran.

The following is excerpts from the daily's article on the story.

"The argument of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the tripartite talks has been supported not only by the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the UN delegates but also by the majority of the governments which follow the process of peace talks without partiality to either side. Even the nations which have the privilege of veto power at the UN Security Council, which were the initial architects of Iraq's eight-year war with the Islamic Republic, which in the course of the war armed the Iraqi regime to the full, and which previously in most international political circles, supported the stand of the Ba'th government towards Iran now overtly or indirectly uphold the modest and principled stand of the Islamic Republic in the talks.

"Notwithstanding the international approbations, the absence of international pressures on the Iraqi regime in protest against its blocking of the normal progress of peace talks has resulted in the slow tempo of the talks.

"The secretary general of the United Nations who has personally repeatedly witnessed instances of overt obstructive acts by the Iraqi delegates at the talks has never been inclined to pinpoint Iraq's unprincipled stand as having been the main reason for deadlocked talks and as the element standing in the way of a stable peace at the Persian Gulf or perhaps has failed to do so because of the concomitant political embarrassments.

"Therefore today which is six months since the establishment of a ceasefire in the war, still the first paragraph of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognized borders has not yet been fully fulfilled.

"The Iraqis even violated ithe first paragraph of the reoslution, by attacking Iranian positions during ceasefire and capturing at least 700 Iranians while the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group simply sat back and "observed" the situation in keeping with its descriptive title.

"The sum of all those developments is evidence that the Iraqis are not interested in a peace in which the rights of the parties are upheld accoridng to the UN Charter. From the outset the Iraqis wanted a brand of peace arrived at by imposing their own oppressive terms on the other party and one ensuring their dominance in the region.

"Because the Iraqis had failed to take the initiative at the battlefields in the course of their eight-year war with Iran for changing the balance of power to their side, and disdaining political isolation at the world circles, they

launched out certain maneuvers in the military arena as well as on the political scene after Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

"The world news as well as developments subsequent to Iran's acceptance of the resolution invariably testified to Iran's modesty and her self-reservation. But even the universal publicity in favor of Iran failed to bring the Ba'thists to their senses and fell short of preventing them from their obstructive policies on the way of peace.

"If the UN secretary general and the governments which have insisted on the exact fulfillment of the resolution should now look to a fruitful talks in the next round in Geneva they cannot do better than warn Iraq of the grave consequences of its hampering policies and useless bickering at the talks."

Kurdish Refugees Reject Iraqi Amnesty, Return

LD1812183488 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., Dec. 18, IRNA—Some Iraqi Kurdish refugees, who lured by the Ba'thist regime's 'amnesty' offer had left Iran for their homeland, returned here over the past few days.

The 130 Kurdish families had been deceived by Iraq's declaration of the so-called general amnesty for all dissidents, following the ceasefire in its war against Iran.

But they soon found out the reality of the situation, and the stepped up persecution in northern Iraq once again forced the Kurdish familes to seek refuge in Islamic Iran.

Last September, Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had urged all refugees to exercise caution and had dismissed the regime's offer of amnesty as "a hoax to fool world public opinion."

Kurdish fears turned out to be true, for following the July 20 armistice, the regime intensified the chemical genocide in Iraqi Kurdistan, forcing another 40,000 Kurds to seek asylum in Iran.

Paper Criticizes French Contacts With Iraq

LD1412194988 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT said in a commentary Wednesday that the French Government continues its military support of Iraq, and that while it is building up Iraq militarily it is also looking for business opportunities in Iran. The daily said that France's efforts for tilting the balance of power between Iran and Iraq is against the UN Security Council Resolution 598, and casts doubt on Michel Rocard's promises for improving relations with Iran. It recommends that France's behavior should not be condoned by the Islamic Republic.

The following is the text of the daily's commentary.

"The recent visit to Baghdad by France's minister of state for foreign affairs Roland Dumas has drawn the attention of Persian Gulf observers. The new situation in the region, the consequence of the acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 by Iran, has placed each of the two countries in a new position on the basis of which to identify new goals and priorities for their own future programmes.

"Tehran and Paris exchanged ambassadors at the end of a relatively long period of severed relations. The rupture in the two countries' ties was accompanied by France's refusal to buy Iranian oil. The resumption of ties placed the two countries in a typical situation for resuming trade exchanges. But the new juncture in Tehran-Paris relations so far has not seen a fundamental solving of disputes between the two countries.

"The French Government continues to discriminate between Tehran and Baghdad and refuses to establish relations with the two capitals on an equal basis. France was Iraq's second most important military supporter after the Soviet Union during the eight years of Iraqi aggression, and her military help to Iraq was consequential to the progress of the war. During the period, Paris repeatedly asserted its commitment to Iraq at any cost and the French President Francois Mitterrand regularly repeated his government's commitment to Baghdad as a means for offsetting Islamic revival in the Middle East.

"Reports of delivery to Iraq of French-made Super-Etendards, Exocet missiles, advanced Mirages, Laser-guided bombs, heavy artillery pieces, as well as the involvement of French pilots in war operations against Iranian targets prviously, and other forms of technical, financial, and political supports to Baghdad throughout the war years prevented the reestablishment of Tehran-Paris ties.

"As the ceasefire went into effect between the two warring countries Iran and France upgraded their diplomatic relations and both declared their commitment to settling their differences. In its foreign policies during the past few months Iran has looked for ways and means for establishing a lasting ceasefire and peace between Tehran and Baghdad. Obviously to maintain the present ceasefire, and above all to ensure a true stability in the reigon would involve a true balance between the forces which fought against each other for eight years. Now a third country cannot possibly claim to have promoted stability in the region by beefing up the military might of either of the parties in an unresolved war, far from that it would indicate that country's interfering policies in the region.

"Sporadic news reports indicate that Roland Dumas was in Baghdad last week in order to review outlooks for helping Baghdad manufacture and assemble advanced Mirage fighter planes and Alfa-jets and sign an agreement for establishing an army planes manufacturing

plant in that country. The decision by France means adding to Iraq's military might and tilting the present balance of power in the Persian Gulf and is a true duplicate only of the situation in Egypt.

"Tempted by financial benefits and in a bid to firmly establish France's political foothold in the region and that to despite claims by Paris for working towards balanced relations with all countries of the Persian Gulf, Michel Rocard as well as French industrialists have apparently ventured to recklessly beef up one party in the war without thinking of ithe consequences of their adventurism.

"Mr Dumas and Iraqi negotiators in Baghdad last week also agreed to re-schedule Iraq's debt to France. Surprisingly, France continues to bolster Iraq militarily while it also seeks trade and economic opportunities in Iran. Will this policy lead France anywhere?

"The decision of French industrialists to transfer Mirage warplane technology to Iraq, which has had the seal of approval of the Paris government is an overt scheme for disrupting the present balance of power between Tehran and Baghdad in the interest of the Iraqi regime. This step is not only against the word and spirit of the UN Security Council Resolution 598—which ironically has had the Paris government among its principal supporters—but is also against Mr Rocard's avowed commitments to mend fences with Iran.

"Mr Musavi (prime minister), therefore, should not remain indifferent towardss Mr Rocard's measure."

Media Comment on Palestine Developments

Tehran Radio Commentary

LD1812215188 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 18 Dec 88

["PLO Coming Close to Unconditional Peace Formula With Enemies"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Tehran radio said in a commentary Sunday that the meeting in Tunis Friday between a group of representatives of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and U.S. ambassador to Tunis is likely to be followed by explicit concessions to the U.S. and the Zionist regime by the PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat. It said for the PLO the road to a submissive settlement with the Zionist regime will not be an easy one, but that as 'Arafat continues in a desparate groping for peace with the Zionist regime certain Arab governments may come to his help by gradually recognizing the regime.

The following is the text of the commentary.

As an official meeting went on between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and us officials in Tunis Friday at least five Muslims were put to death in the occupied Palestine. The meeting in Tunis between the PLO and the Americans, the first official meeting between them since the foundation of the organization, was made possible as a result of the statements in Geneva last Tuesday by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and a subsequent decision by Ronald Reagan.

'Arafat officially recognized the right of Israel to exist in the region, and thereby practically fulfilled all pre-conditions set forth by Washington for political talks. As 'Arafat's statement triggered the opposition of certain Palestinian groups, so too, the decision of the U.S. was received with resentment on the part of the Zionist regime.

'Arafat having abjured armed resistance in the name of "giving up terrorism" must now make sure that his future steps will conform with the decisions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which is precisely what President elect George Bush has called for. Bush said recently that he wanted to make sure that 'Arafat's decision is upheld by the PNC and that he needed to be assured that the statement of the PLO chief is something beyond a purely personal declaration. But despite the significant developments in relations between the PLO and Washington which is capable of substantially altering the political scene in the Middle East it seems as though the road to an eventual indefensible reconciliaton is yet a long one.

Aside from the publicity accompanying the development PLO can now only claim to have attained a political victory while the U.S. may have ended the political isolation of its own for its reputed disregard of the rights of the people of Palestine. Until that time countless problems have to be settled which means 'Arafat will have to give more and more concessions.

In the occupied Palestine Shamir recognizes only self-autonomy for the Western Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Perez advocates Zionists' withdrawal from the two areas. With respect to the outlooks of the two Israeli personalities the creation of an independent Palestinian government in the neighborhood of Israel seems to be an impossibility.

A third alternative would be for the U.S. to pressure all concerned nations into accepting the future PLO government as a confederate state with Jordan which means the future Palestinian state will be only a semi-independent government with her foreign and defence policies subordinate to that of Jordan.

The status of the city of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) under the circumstances would be problematic, with the Zionist regime bent on not ceding the city to the Palestinians. On the other hand the future of Zionist settlements in the Western Bank and Gaza Strip and the legality of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations are integral elements in a future political solution to the problem. Nonetheless it seems in his no return trip 'Arafat will give further concessions to the U.S. and Israel.

Amid this the uprising of the Palestinians and the occupation by the Zionist regime of the Golan Heights in Syria seems to pose a problem. Obviously no eventual peace formula may be worked out without the involvement of Syria. While the Zionist regime has overtly annexed the Golan Heights to the occupied lands Damascus has continuously dismissed the notion of any form of conciliation with the imperialists.

Despite Damascus being assertive in its claim on Golan Heights, however, one likely development in the future would be for certain Arab governments to gradually recognize the government in the occupied Palestine.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Cited

LD2012175688 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial Tuesday said the Zionist police in occupied Palestine continue to massacre Muslims in that country despite 'Arafat's recognition of Israel's right to exist in Palestine proper. It said the Palestinian Muslims have been waging a struggle against the Zionist regime for liberating the entirety of their occupied lands and that they will continue their resistance struggle as long as their land continues to remain under the occupation of their enemies.

The following is excerpts from the daily's editorial.

'Certain reports, other than that of Jiorjio Commelli [name as received] of the United Nations in Vienna, indicate that the number of Palestinians killed by the Zionist forces in the occupied lands since December 1987 is far beyond the officially- announced figure of 36,000. In addition to those not included many more have not registered with the UN bureau for fear of failing into the hands of the Zionists, and therefore are missing in the list.

'But even irrespective of the missing numbers the figure 36,000 would already be very high. It shows that during the past year the Zionists killed an average of 100 Palestinians daily.

'Everybody remembers how the Zionists attacked the Palestinians with sticks, stones rifles' butts and even hammers. The documentaries, despite having passed through the varied censorship channels still betray some aspects of the horrid crimes committed on the Palestinians daily.

'That nowadays we do not see any similar documentaries does not mean that the Zionist forces have discontinued their crimes in the occupied territories, but it only means that they have heeded Henry Kissinger's advice against shooting documentaries of those horrible scenes. In the recent days the Zionists have committed their crimes only when they have been assured that their torture and massacre of Palestinians are not filmed.

'The Zionist government also has nowadays acted in a manner to give the world people to understand that they only keep a watchful eye on the Palestinians and do nothing beyond that. The earth-shattering data by the United Nations, however, is good evidence that crimes by the Zionists on the Palestinians still continue on a large scale.

'The indisputable reality amid all this is that the Palestinians did not initially wage a struggle against the occupied regime in order to bring to power a pro-'Arafat group, and that they did mean to serve the cause of conciliatory groups who vacillate at every breeze and who change position in response to the tide of events.

'The people of Palestine have entered the scene of struggle in order to attain true independence and liberate the entirety of Palestine, and have washed hands of everything in their struggle for that goal. Naturally as long as the Palestinians have not attained this holy goal they will continue their sanguine struggle even though Israel may commit far worse crimes on the oppressed Palestinians.

West's Human Rights Charges Denounced

LD1912212088 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—The West's trumped-up human rights charges against certain Third World countries "is a political lever for exerting pressure on sovereign states", said an Iranian diplomat.

Iran's ambassador in Algiers Siavosh Zargar Ya'qubi who made the remark in a meeting with Algerian Minister of Justice Ali Benflis Monday, also reviewed expansion of bilateral ties.

In reply, the Algerian official noted how the self-styled human rights advocates had ignored crimes committed by the deposed Shah's security forces (SAVAK). But, he added, they never tire of making allegations "when Iranian people decide their own fate."

Benflis also condemned the ominous silence of these very human rights organizations vis-a-vis the oppressed peoples of occupied Palestine, Chile and Africa.

"Islam has paid special attention to human rights since the last 14 centuries, while the West and Europe only realized the meaning of human rights barely two centuries ago" the Algerian justice minister pointed.

KEYHAN HVAI Editorial

PM2012120988 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 14 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial by unidentified correspondent: "They Want To Make It Look as Though There Is No Security in Society"]

[Text] In order to safeguard the country's stability and independence, there is need for a strong presence on the international scene, together with political, social, and economic security in the country. This is something which officials also consider important.

It is natural that postwar conditions have created some changes inside the country, which of course also affect foreign policy. There is now increased political, economic, and social activity. Alongside these changes, the political atmosphere in the country has also changed, and there is increased diplomatic activity on the international scene. Iran's prsence in various organizations has broadened and Iran has taken a special place in the world as a country that has put behind it the harsh conditions of war, the aftermath of the revolution, and huge conspiracies against it—and one that has emerged from all this successfully.

All these elements—plus the fact that the basic path of the revolution has not changed and the spirit of the revolution has not surrendered to the aggressive powers—has caused our country to come under a new set of pressures from the West. These pressures and threats against the country undermine all the actions and positive steps taken. It has been made to look as though Iran is incapable of providing security in the economic, political, and social fields—both within its borders and in terms of its international contacts—and as though the country is unstable.

The aggressor is thus hoping to make problems for us so that we will be unable to safeguard our interests through mutual contacts with other nations. On the internal scene, of course we would then be unable to come up with policies that would match these new conditions.

The latest in this series of conspiracies raises the issue of human rights and increasing numbers of executions which are talked about in the world so that the country's political image is damaged in the eyes of public opinion.

The economic pressures exerted on us by the West are another side of the same coin. The conspiracy of falling oil prices, designed to reduce our hard currency reserves, has been hatched with this in mind, so that it affects all facets of our internal and external policies. Thus the expectations of society after the war, for the government to resolve some of the shortages and difficulties, would not be met—which in practice brings into question the government's ability to meet the people's demands.

On the social level these pressures are used to show that security has reached its lowest level, that society is unstable. The assassination of Dr Sami, which informed political sources say was planned outside the country, is the start of this plot to create insecurity in the society. together with this there are rumors of "crimes" on a large scale, which are also part of the political pressures against Iran. In reality the enemies of the Islamic republic are trying to present a false picture of the country, thereby creating obstacles to every kind of activity, at the same suggesting that the regime is unable to provide economic, social, and political stability for the nation.

Experts believe that in order to defuse the enemies' plots before they reach their goals, there must be plans to confront the issue.

Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke on the anniversary of the declaration of human rights about the propaganda pressures against the Islamic Republic with regard to the abuse of human rights. He said the turning point for these attacks coincided with the onslaught by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization with the help of the Iraqi Army in the west of the country. He talked about the Mersad operations and the information obtained from those who had been arrested: With this information it became clear that those inside the country had contacts with this crime of the Iraqis and mojahedin and that they had the same goals.

They were supposed to undertake vast acts of destruction inside the country. Of course those who were punished were chastised in connection with cooperation to launch attacks on Iranian territory, and noises are being made by the aggressors' mass media at the moment because they do not want this issue to be linked with a border attack which was defeated. This is why they have given it another slant, and they say whatever they want.

In reality it seems there must be more work done on this issue in order to defuse the propaganda. The proposal by Iran's UN representative for a conference between Western journalists, Amnesty International, other human human rights bodies, the UN Commission for Human Rights, and lawyers and experts from Iran could be useful. To organize such an event inside the country would also be good because its publicity in the world would give the lie to all the accusations, while at the same time calming internal opinion, which has been influenced by the propoganda bombardment of the West.

Another issue which could defuse the external pressures is the coordination of foreign policy. This does not mean controlling the various ideas being expressed but, rather, that there should be a responsible limit to official statements on foreign policy, highlighting various viewpoints for and against, which would indicate freedom of speech. This, because others are waiting to use every comment coming out of Iran to put pressure on the country and to prove its instability.

On the economic side, experts believe that the pressures exerted by the West, headed by the United States, on our hard currency earnings are affecting every facet of our economic policies. The conspiracy to lower oil prices and the reduction of nonexports are some of the points that have to be taken into consideration, and actions should be taken immediately to combat the drop in currency earnings.

All these pressures are designed to force Iran to accept foreign loans. This would not only ruin the country's economic foundations, but would also damage our independence. Iran's proposal to West Germany with a view

to reconstruction using letters of credit in cooperation with other countries could mean that Iran would not need foreign loans. At the same time increased nonoil exports and efforts to compete with others on the market should be investigated.

Clandestine Names 'Executed Strugglers'

LD1612145088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Each day we receive the names of another group of victims in the massacre of political prisoners in our country. While noting that, due to the silence of the bloodthirsty regime about the names and identities of the executed strugglers there is a possibility that there may be some mistakes in the the names of the martyred strugglers, we announce the new names which have been put at our disposal:

From the Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran organization, the Majority, Comrades Hasan Dashtara, Khalil Lotfollah-Zadeh, Hasan Nurbakhsh, Jahangir Fathi, and Comrade Gudarzi.

From the Tudeh Party of Iran, Comrades Mohammad Pur-Hormozan, 'Ali Reza Dalili, and Mohammad Reza Dalili.

From the Revolutionary Workers' Organization of Iran, The Workers' Path, Kambiz Golchu'iyan and Manuchehr Sarhaddi.

Strugglers whose party affiliation is not know to us: Nazanin Nikeqbal, Susan [surname indistinct], Mohammad Rahimzadeh, Amir-Hoseyn Hajmohsen, Maryam Golzadeh-Ghafuri, Parviz Rostampur, Jalil Jabbari, Kazem Khoshdel, Soheila Darwish, Fatemeh Eshraqi, and Shahyad Razi.

Radio Iran Toilers greets the glorious memory of these strugglers for the freedom and well-being of the people of our country and expresses its condolences to all the families, friends, and acquaintances of those martyrs and to all the mourning people of our country.

Emergency Cabinet Session Discusses Investments

LD2012142488 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—The cabinet met in an emergency session Tuesday to set aside foreign exchange for investment in infrastructure projects such as electricity, oil, petrochemicals and steel.

The allocation followed discussions on the 1368 (March 1989-90) budget which will be sent soon to the Majles for approval.

The cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi set aside a "considerable percentage" of foreign exchange earnings for investment in cultural, educational and research purposes.

Official Notes Uranium, Molybdenum Reserves

LD2012120088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Following 5 years of efforts in the Saghand region, Yazd Province, the estimated reserves of this region's mines are 3,000 tonnes of uranium and 4,000 tonnes of molybdenum. According to the Central News Unit, Mr Amrollahi, deputy prime minister and head of the Atomic Energy Organization, said while visiting Yazd that during a survey of an area of 13,000 square kilometers and 14,000 meters in depth, about 12,000 cubic meters of mining material were dug out.

He added: So far, the excavated minerals have been analyzed by taking 16,000 rock samples and measuring their metal content. As a result it is estimated that the reserves are several times more than the country's predicted consumption.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization added: About $4 million in investment is envisaged for the next 3 to 4 years to bring these mines to the production phase; and the added value of these minerals, which will be exported, will be 500 times more than the original capital investment.

In conclusion, Mr Amrollahi pointed out: Other rare elements have been discovered in the uranium mines. These elements have extensive application in superconductors technology. To speed up the process, the original mining area of 1,400 square kilometers in the Saghand region of Yazd Province is being mapped on a scale of 1:2000, and 1:5000-scale maps are also being drawn for 950 hectares of the area.

Agricultural Assistance Offered to UAE

LD1812162188 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari said today Iran is ready to help the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in irrigation, mulching, gardening of citrus fruits, date and vegetables, as well as research activities.

In a meeting with UAE Charge d'Affaires Tariq Ahmad al-Haidan [name as received], he said the geographical similitude of the southern Iranian coasts and UAE warrants closer cooperation.

Towards the end of the meeting, Kalantari extended an invitation for his UAE counterpart to visit Iran.

Issues of Cultural Reconstruction Assessed

NC1712100288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. Last week a 3-day seminar on the promotion and reconstruction of culture was held in the presence of some state and cultural officials and on the occasion of the anniversary of the formation of the cultural revolution staff. During this conference, the speakers studied cultural issues and existing problems. Therefore, today we will discuss some of the current difficulties and assess the general problems concerning the promotion of culture and how to achieve it.

Since ancient times in Iran, national and religious culture has influenced all spheres of society. This is why our nation's culture is among the self-sufficient, heuristic, and independent cultures. But on the day when colonialism set foot in this country—through the door of culture at that—many things gradually changed. Colonialist culture emerged in Iran with the intention of destroying creative Iranian forces and stifling productive talents. For this reason, under the Pahlavi regime, men became mimics, captives, consumers, and neutral elements.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution that sprang from the general ideals of the nation, a cultural revolution also took place. Suddenly, a phase of new thoughts and ideas—such as the discovery of identity, the revival of religious thinking, and the creation of an atmosphere of reconstruction—was given new life, and issues of Islamic values became the forerunner in the people's revolution movement. Following this, the values instilled by a colonialist and dependent capitalist culture were questioned.

Unfortunately, however, many golden opportunies for the continuation of the cultural revolution that had emerged when the victory of the Islamic Revolution reahced its zenith were lost. This was because of acute and natural postrevolutionary problems, the imposition of the war, the dependence of the society's institutions, and the numerous domestic problems. The result of this is that now, after almost 10 years, the issue of the country's cultural promotion has not trodden a favorable path.

Today, in view of the new phase of reconstruction, the first step that should be taken toward cultural promotion in the country is for the officials to propound a clear cultural policy. Now, in many of society's cultural dimensions, ambiguity in Islamic laws and indecisiveness in some cultural spheres have created a big problem for cultural promotion. For this reason, efforts to delineate borders, limits, and the religious content of culture should be considered an important and necessary issue.

When speaking about cultural promotion, one should carry out a basic and correct evaluation of the existing situation and determine the impacts of each cultural sector so that the extent of participation by each will therefore be clarified. Much has been said so far about the categories of Islamic culture and national culture and on the extent of influence by foreign cultures, and many ambiguities have existed.

After the clarification of cultural policy, an important issue is the evaluation of the existing situation of culture in society. By studying current shortcomings, we can help toward the compilation of principles and a new policy for cultural life in the future. It is clear that we should not expect the vestiges of the destructive culture of the oppressive monarchy to be eliminated quickly. But despite this, we should see what the vicissitudes in culture have been in recent years, what positive values have been achieved, and what values have been lost, so that we can, by reviewing the cultural structure, remove past obstructive criteria and draw up a better cultural program.

Apart from these, struggling against Western influence can itself provide another way to achieve cultural promotion and the preservation of our religious and traditional heritage and values. Inclination to Western culture always tries to promote consumer and welfare-seeking tendencies in society, destroy self-confidence, create self-alienation, and thus open the way for the infiltration of colonialism. Inclination toward the West has become a habit in some of society's strata, and it is even seen that the consuming and welfare-seeking culture has been revived among some officials. This shows that a realistic cultural struggle is necessary today.

Meanwhile, the promotion of culture in its true sense should be based on the development of the thought of the entire public. Culture is synonymous with words such as initiative, reform, innovation, creativity, and freedom. Any type of cultural change and the elevation of culture are directly linked with the extent of the people's understanding and the existence of an open and healthy atmosphere for the growth of various and constructive ideas. The free confrontation of ideas is one of the special features that colonialist culture always does its best to prevent. This is why today, in countries that have been kept backward, the absence of an open atmosphere and the absence of a confrontation of constructive and variegated ideas is among the most important elements leading to the cultural, and ultimately social descent and dissolution of these countries.

Therefore, the best way out of cultural stagnation is to resort to the weapon of knowledge and public education in all fields. If the people are creative, free and informed, there can never be the fear of cultural infiltration or intervention by foreigners. By creating conditions for the growth of political, social, and cultural views, the dialectical strength of society will be elevated and new opportunities for innovation will emerge. It is only through this that man will regain his responsibility in society and will not consider his only duty to be to listen and act, but will participate in society with true confidence, devotion, and faith.

Undoubtedly, having a rich culture based on Islamic principles and values and correct traditions can be an effective path leading to both the social construction of society and the continuation of the Islamic revolution.

Support Offered to 'Non-Official' Students Abroad

LD1712133088 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The Higher Education Ministry is offering to support students abroad who currently do not have legal student status.

This includes exemption from military service, exit visas and purchase of return airline tickets in rials.

Higher Education Ministry's director general in charge of students abroad, Hamid Khoshgoftar, [name as received] said there are currently 9,000 Iranians studying at university level in various countries who receive foreign exchange through official channels.

These students qualified in national exams and received legal status from the ministry. As such they enjoy certain facilities in return for a pledge that they would come back to Iran.

The ministry is now offering "non-official" students the same facilities—except foreign exchange allowance—if they meet the conditions set by the ministry.

Facilities being offered are exemption from military service while studying, exit visas, exemption from customs duty, issuing of airline tickets in rials from the place of study to Tehran and back, exemption from airport duty, and renewing passports free of charge.

The plan will also cover the students' spouse and children. These students must be studying at creditable universities and taking courses acceptable to the ministry. They must also have a good academic record and the duration of study must not be longer than specified by the ministry.

In return these students must pay a deposit of rials 1 to 4 million, depending on where they are studying, as a guarantee that they would return to Iran after the completion of their studies.

Khoshgoftar said the foreign exchange allowance for official students abroad had also slightly increased. Single students in London for instance would receive pounds 270 a month, up 20 pounds. Wife and child allowances had also increased.

Former Minister's Alleged Murderer Found Dead

LD1612170888 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—The man who stabbed Iran's first health minister to death has himself been found dead 850 kms away from the scene of the crime.

"Mahmoud Jaliliyan who murdered the late Dr Kazem Sami committed suicide in a private bath in Ahvaz 32 hours after wounding his victim," Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said Friday.

Dr Sami died on 25 November, two days after receiving severe blows in the head, arms and chest from the killer's pointed dagger while working in his private office in north Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said the murderer, a former employee of the Red Crescent Society headed by Dr Sami in 1979, had "clashed" with the victim many years ago.

"In the early years after the victory of the revolution Jaliliyan wrote articles against Dr Sami in the national press and constantly invited him to a debate," the police security and intelligence chief Brigadier General Ganjehie said.

The minister and the police chief were speaking at a press conference at the Interior Ministry. Ten days ago Mohtashemi had expressed hope that the killer would be arrested within days as detectives had positively identified him.

The murder brought calls from many official and private quarters for swift action and greater public security.

Imam Khomeyni's designated successor Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri sent a strong message in this regard and was informed of the investigations by Mohtashemi and his aids.

Pakistan

Baluchistan Governor Discusses Election Plans

BK2012121488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The Baluchistan governor, general, retired, Mohammad Musa, discussed the arrangements for holding fresh elections to the Provincial Assembly with the Baluchistan election commissioner, Mr Rahmat Ali, in Quetta today.

The governor directed the provincial election commissioner to finalize the arrangements for holding free, fair and impartial elections. The governor stressed that the government has decided to hold elections to the Provincial Assembly within 90 days as provided in the Constitution. He hoped the election schedule will be announced by the 29th of this month.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Officially Declared President 20 Dec

Secures Over 50 Percent of Vote

BK2012132088 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The election commissioner has officially announced that the United National Party candidate Premadasa has been elected as the new executive president of Sri Lanka.

According to the results of the presidential elections held yesterday, he has secured (?71,810) votes more than the [words indistinct] by a minister winning the presidential elections. This was announced by the election commissioner, Chandrananda de Silva this evening.

Mr Premadasa secured 2,569,199 votes, which is 50.43 percent. The Sri Lankan Freedom Party candidate, Sirimavo Bandaranaike received 2,289,260 votes. The Sri Lanka Mahajana Party candidate got only 235,819 votes.

Gives Victory Address

BK2012162188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1446 GMT 20 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa is Sri Lanka's next president.

Mr Premadasa, the United National Party candidate, polled 50.43 per cent of the over five million votes cast islandwide in yesterday's election and was declared the winner this evening by Elections Commissoner Chandrananda De Silva at Colombo's Town Hall, amidst a large gathering.

Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party candidate, polled 44.95 per cent and Ossie Abeygoonesekera of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party 4.63 per cent of the total of 5,186,223.

Mrs Hema Premadasa, wearing a white saree with a pink border, sat beside the president-elect, as the elections commissioner made the announcement at 1730 hours [1200 GMT]. Immediately after he was declared the winner in the country's second presidential election, Mr Premadasa was garlanded by United National Party Chairman Ranjan Wijeratne. Also present to witness the historic event were National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, Lands and Mahaweli Minister Gamini Dissanayake and State and Information Minister Dr Anandatissa De Alwis.

In an address of thanks to the nation over the national television network after he was declared the winner, president-elect Premadasa clad in immaculate white national dress said this is a great victory for the ballot. The ballots of the people have triumphed over the bullets of brutality. This is a victory for all those individuals and parties who are dedicated to the ballot. The ballot is the vehicle of all those who are committed to democracy. We are all relieved that sanity has prevailed over terror.

Today, not only the winner but also those who did not win can share this victory for democracy in Sri Lanka. The presidential election is over, the verdict of the people is clear. Mrs Bandaranaike and Mr Ossie Abeygoonasekera are no longer my rivals. I consider them as two contestants who presented alternative policies to the people. Let us join together to eliminate post-election bitterness. The strength of our victory lies in our ability to protect those who opposed us. I appeal to everyone to refrain from engaging in provocative activities.

President-elect Premadasa said we fought hard. Together, let us now fight harder to defeat fear and poverty. At this moment, on behalf of all my countrymen, I have an appeal to make to those who have still to join the democratic process. Please make up your mind soon. You have another chance of doing so at the forthcoming parliamentary elections. I am available for any consultation with a view to arriving at a practicable solution. Your participation will enable us to eradicate fear and poverty with greater speed.

This election has given us many messages from the people. It indicates the appreciation of the people for eliminating scarcities. It endorses the path of development pursued by the United National Party government. It also approves the policies I intend implementing to alleviate poverty. I am also fully aware of the many liabilities with which my campaign was burdened. Our success will be truly meaningful only if we appreciate the concerns of the people, correct errors and provide an effective government.

Continuing his address to the nation he said the politics of terror has no place in the temple of democracy. Party supporters have faced frightful threats and attacks. This must and this will end. Let us make no false claims in victory or excuses in defeat. The people have spoken, their voice is clear: our mandate is nationwide, our cause is just, our purpose is welcome. I have always believed that we must learn from the wisdom of the masses. This is the primary truth that democracy recognises. May this always be so in Sri Lanka.

Let me thank the commissioner of elections and all those who assisted him in conducting this critical presidential election. They have ensured the victory of the ballot. I also express my gratitude to all those who voted for me and to all those who worked for me.

Mr Premadasa said we are deeply indebted to the peace-loving and brave people of Sri Lanka. They demonstrated their commitment to the process of democracy. They did so at the risk of their lives, or sustained injuries and suffered hardships to protect our liberty. It is only by doing everything to preserve this victory of democracy that we can truly honour them.

I will protect our Constitution. I will eradicate fear and suspicion. I will restore law and order. I will fulfill all my commitments as presented in the manifesto of the United National Party. I will serve all people alike without fear or favour.

Continuing his address to the nation, President-elect Premadasa said as transitions require time, reflection and preparation, I will be assuming the office of president on Monday, the 2nd of January 1989. This will take place at the historic Octagon at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy.

May the blessings of the noble triple-gem be bestowed on our motherland and on all of us.

The number of votes polled at the presidential election yesterday was 55 per cent islandwide, of a total of 9,375,742 registered voters, the commissioner of elections said.

Mr Premadasa is Sri Lanka's second president. The first is incumbent President J.R. Jayewardene, who did not stand for re-election, but proposed the candidature of Mr Premadasa.

A signficant victory was gained by Mr Premadasa, when he won the Bulathsinhala electorate, which was represented in Parliament by former Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel, who left the UNP and rejoined the SLFP.

Other significant victories included those at Mulkirigala, Belliata, Tissamaharama, Akuressa, Tangalle and Balapitiya in the southern province, Balangoda, Mrs Bandaranaike's ancestral hometown and birthplace, which had an 80.7 percent voter turnout and where Mr Premadasa gained 52.1 percent of the 48,163 votes polled, as against 46.3 percent by Mrs Bandaranaike.

The final voting figures in the presidential election were:

R. Premadasa [UNP]	2,569,199	50.4 percent
Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike [SLFP]	2,289,860	44.9 percent
Mr Ossie Abeygoonesekera [SLMP] [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party]	235,719	4.6 percent
Total polled	5,186,223	55.3 percent

Mr Premadasa's biggest victory however was in the Colombo Central electorate, which he represented in Parliament obtaining 65.8 percent of the 90,971 votes and a majority of over 32,000.

Mrs Bandaranaike's highest percentage poll was at Attanagalla, the electorate she earlier represented in Parliament, registering a poll of 60.1 percent of a total of 60,210.

SLMP candidate Ossie Abeygoonesekera was trailing his rivals with only a little over 4 percent voting for him.

The SLMP Candidate Ossie Abeygoonasekera had his best support in the north and east.

President Jayewardene in a broadcast made this afternoon over the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation appealed for peace and said he would impose a curfew after the final results were announced as a precautionary measure.

Police reported the situation quiet today, islandwide. No serious incidents had been reported.

New Delhi Delays Reaction

BK2112083088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 21 (AFP)—New Delhi is waiting to see if Sri Lankan Premier Ranasinghe Premadasa follows up on his promise to ask Indian troops to leave the island before it reacts to his election as president this week, observers said Wednesday.

"The ball is clearly in Mr. Premadasa's court," said Subramaniam Swamy, an Indian Tamil member of Parliament.

Mr. Premadasa has been a vociferous critic of the July 1987 peace pact that sent a 50,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka's north and east to crush a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Portrayed here as a consistent New Delhi-baiter, the president-elect early in his campaign said he would renogotiate the accord, ask the IPKF to go home and that he preferred a friendship and cooperation treaty.

He said once in an election speech, "as it is, I cannot go to the Indian prime minister and demand such a withdrawal. But if I receive this mandate (for president) I can say to the IPKF 'thank you, you can go now.'"

Observers here said India appeared to be waiting to see how soon the 64-year-old premier would act on his campaign promise.

New Delhi has still not reacted to the announcement Tuesday that gave Mr. Premadasa a narrow victory over former Premier Sirimavo Randarnaike in Monday's polling.

"We clearly welcome the fact that an election was held," said an External Affairs Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonimity.

He said the fact that the election had nopt been disrupted by a high degree of violence "and the impressive voter turnout, we hope, augers well for the future in the background of the ethnic conflict," he said without commenting further.

Indian newspapers were equally cautious.

"Surely the most significant point about the poll is not so much its outcome as the fact that it took place at all," THE TIMES OF INDIA said citing the climate of fear and violence by Tamil and Sinhalese extremists that preceded the vote Monday.

"New Delhi cannot prejudge what he is likely to do when he assumes office," the pro-government daily added.

THE TIMES said however that the new political situation would force India and Sri Lanka to review relations.

The statesman ruled out an immediate withdrawal of the IPKF while admitting that Mr. Preamadasa's opposition to its presence had helped him win over the Sinhalese constituency.

"Few among the Sinhalese are likely to be in favour of a sudden withdrawal of the IPKF, knowing full well that such a step might mean an almost immediate return to the worst phase of the civil war," it added.

Some observers had said the Sri Lankan presidential election could be a potential foreign policy embarrassment for New Delhi with the Indian troop presence clearly the major campaign issue.

The IPKF has reached a stalemate and is still a long way from its objective of crushing the Tamil separatist campaign spearheaded by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

If the IPKF is asked to return, New Delhi would be hard put to reassure the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu—home to 55 million Indian Tamils—that the Tamils of Sri Lanka have not been left defenceless, observers said.

More importantly Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government, which faces a general election in late 1989, would have to satisfy the nation that the loss of its soldiers' lives in Sri Lanka has not been in vain.

Tamil Nadu elects a new State Assembly on January 21 and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party is one of the contenders to form a government.

Indian Envoy Greets Premadasa

BK2112094888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on the president-elect, Mr R. Premadasa, in Colombo this morning. He conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to Mr Premadasa.

Bandaranaike Will Not Recognize New President

BK2112055788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0518 GMT 21 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 21 (AFP)—Defeated presidential candidate and former premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike has said she will not recognise the new head of state elected Monday in what she described as unfair and unjust polls.

Mrs Bandaranaike of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) came a close second, polling 2.28 million votes, just 279,000 behind ruling party candidate Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"The election was conducted under a state of emergency. Voters were intimidated. It was not a free and fair election. The result is unfair and unjust," Mrs Bandaranaike said in a statement published Wednesday.

The election was marred by a low turnout and sporadic violence which left at least 30 people dead, half of them voters. Scores of civilians and troops were attacked in poll-related incidents during balloting.

"As I cannot accept the result, I declare that I will not recognise Mr Premadasa as the new head of state," Mrs Bandaranaike told the pro-SLFP Sinhalese language daily DIVAINA.

Elections Commissioner Chandananda de Silva said Tuesday that he cancelled the election in certain areas where polling could not be conducted due to threats and attacks against his officials.

Balloting was disrupted in 49 polling stations which had an electorate of some 160,000 people in southern Moneragala District, a hotbed of the Sinhalese militant group the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

The JVP had vowed to sabotage the election.

Delhi Radio Cites Candidate's Support for Accord

BK1712091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the United Socialist Alliance candidate for presidential poll, Mr Ossie Abey Goonesekera, says the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement is a good starting point to resolve the ethnic problem in the island. In an interview with our correspondent, S. Robert, in Batticaloa today, he said what is needed now is building up of understanding among all communities by respecting their rights. He said the agreement forms the basis for achieving cordial relationships among all. Mr Goonesekera declared that if voted to power he will strengthen the present provincial council.

Our correspondent adds that both TULF and EPRLF have announced their support to Mr Goonesekera in the presidential poll to be held on Monday.